

Yorkshire Naturalists' Union

**ORNITHOLOGICAL
REPORT
for
1983**

**compiled by
John E. Dale**

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Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Ornithological Section

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Report for 1983 Edited by John E. Dale

Each year, with the growth of interest in ornithology in the County, the number of observers submitting records to their local societies, or direct to the vice-county recorders continues to increase. Consequently the task of extracting and sorting the ever growing volume of records becomes more exacting, and inevitably some sightings of local significance cannot be listed in detail, and may only appear as part of a general seasonal summary of occurrences.

At the same time an effort has been made to produce this report relatively earlier than was possible in recent years. In order to achieve this the cooperation of the already willing local recorders was solicited, with very satisfactory results.

In their turn the vice-county recorders produced the reports before the end of 1984, a most necessary achievement for the publication of this report by the summer of 1985. Paul Singleton must receive special thanks for summarising the data for vice-county 63, in addition to that for his own area, following the resignation of David Herringshaw due to pressure of other work. For three years David played a useful part as recorder for the area which has the greatest concentration of birdwatchers and local societies.

For 1984 the recorder for vice-county 63 will be Jeff Lunn, who has considerable experience of bird watching in Yorkshire, and has been involved in the activities of the Barnsley and District Bird Study Group for several years, in particular as editor of the annual report. In future records for vice-county 63 should be sent to J. Lunn, 12 Kenwood Close, Stairfoot, Barnsley. Tel. 283465.

1983 proved to be a most interesting year with 282 species reliably recorded excluding those published with the escape proviso. The practice of publishing a separate list of escapes has been discontinued, but included in the classified list are those species which may already have, or could possibly develop in future, a viable independent feral population. Also included in the classified list under the escape proviso are species whose occurrence may be natural, but cannot be proved conclusively.

At least 143 species bred successfully and another six may have bred or attempted to breed. Amongst those of special interest were Black-necked Grebe, Pintail, Garganey, Montagu's Harrier, Quail and Stonechat. Other species present at suitable sites in the breeding season included Marsh Harrier, Ruff, Black-tailed Godwit, Fieldfare and Parrot Crossbill. Following the invasion of Parrot Crossbill in 1982 many remained in South

Yorkshire at the beginning of the year, and although complete proof of breeding was not obtained nest building took place in March, and birds of the year were in a family party on 7th May.

Of established breeding species significant increases were noted for Great Crested Grebe in the east of the County; for the Gannet colony, and for Shelduck at inland sites. A distinct decline was reported from many areas for three of our summer visitors: Sand Martin, Grasshopper Warbler and Sedge Warbler.

Two species new to the County appeared during 1983. A White-throated Sparrow was at Spurn on 12th May, and an Isabelline Shrike was at Flamborough Head on 25th August. The second record of Hudsonian Godwit was one on 26th April, which like the first just over eighteen months earlier, spent several days at Blacktoft Sands, and the possibility of this being the same wandering individual cannot be discounted. Another second record for the County was a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Flamborough on 9th September, and the Tengmalm's Owl at Spurn during March was the first for 82 years.

Considerable numbers of Little Auks appeared along the coast in early February during gale force north-easterly winds and subsequently a massive wreck of auk species occurred not only along the Yorkshire coast but along the whole of the east coast of Britain.

The autumn passage along the coast of Sooty Shearwater and Arctic Skua in late August, and Great Skua in early September was the best in recent years. Little Auk again featured in the autumn months, with record numbers at Spurn on 28th and 29th October, and a record for the County of 6,244 off Flamborough on 29th October.

Of land based migrants there was exceptional invasion of Jays in late September and early October, which although substantial in the north of England, was much heavier in the south during mid October. Fieldfare arrived late with two distinct periods of influx, the first in early November, and the second in mid December.

British Birds Rarities

At the time of preparation of this report many of the records were still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*, and several had not been submitted due to the late arrival of the descriptions in the hands of the YNU Recorders. The value of submitting a description of a rare bird as soon as possible after the sighting cannot be over-emphasized. The backlog of records in this category is increasing and it is the editors' intention to publish a list of accepted records at an appropriate future date.

The report lacks illustrations which were a valuable feature of those of the late 1970s, and any material submitted for future reports will be welcomed.

The Reports Committee acknowledges the support of the local recorders and observers throughout the County who have submitted information to the YNU, and I also wish to thank my colleagues on the committee for their continuing support.

John E. Dale, April 1985

Classified List

All the rare and unusual species in this report have been considered by the Reports Committee and found acceptable on the written evidence supplied by the observers, and have also been accepted by the *British Birds Rarities Committee* where applicable unless otherwise stated. The sequence and nomenclature used is that of Voous K. H., *List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species* (1973 and 1977). B.O.U. 1977.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Noted off coastal watch points throughout the year including singles in June off Flamborough on 4th and Filey on 11th.

Large numbers of divers, mainly this species, were off Spurn in January with counts of from 111 to 364 up to 9th, then 122 on 13th February and 113 on 19th, and from 156 to 200 between 18th and 21st March. Elsewhere during February totals at various sites of birds moving, and on the sea, were 164 off Flamborough on 12th; 33 off Long Nab on 13th; 194 off Skipsea on 19th, and 280 (160 diver species) off Mappleton on 20th. During March off Withernsea 112 on 2nd and 135 on 21st, mainly moving south.

60 to 150 passed Spurn in April up to 4th, after which numbers along the coast were low until the autumn apart from 44 at Flamborough on 16th July.

Highest autumn counts were 94 off Spurn on 25th September, and 72 on 29th October when Filey had 50 north; 35 south at Ravenscar on 6th November; 41 at Withernsea on 6th December, and at Flamborough 130 on 12th November and 99 on 11th December.

Singles on Hornsea Mere during February and March were both oiled, and later found dead. Another at Hornsea Mere during November.

Further inland, one flew east at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd February, and singles were at Eccup Res. on 27th October and at Gouthwaite Res. on 12th November. One at Southfield Res. from 20th February to 5th March.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

One to three on various dates during the first four months at Spurn, Withernsea, Atwick, Flamborough, Scarborough, Long Nab and Ravenscar, and singles at a few other sites. Six off Flamborough on 12th February (PAL), eight south off Mappleton on 20th February (WFC), and five off Withernsea on 30th March (SML).

The only early record from Filey was on 2nd May, and Flamborough had three on 1st May, and one to two in late May and early June.

All records for August and September were from Spurn, with singles on six dates. One to two in the second half of October at Spurn; two at Scarborough on 27th (MDW), and three at Flamborough on 29th. During November up to two regularly off Hornsea (GRB); four between Bridlington and Barmston on 26th (SML), and singles at Scarborough on 1st, Spurn on 13th and Ravenscar on 19th. Three at Flamborough on 10th December and one at Filey on 18th (IF *et al*).

Singles at Southfield Res. from 1st to 9th January (CB), and at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 26th December (MLD).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

The records during the early months apart from two at Flamborough on 7th February (PAL), and at Burniston Bay on 6th April (MF), were all of singles. During January at Filey on 5th (PJD); Spurn on 8th, and Flamborough on 16th (PAD); during February at Filey on 2nd (PIH); Flamborough on 11th; Fraisthorpe (AJL) and Bridlington (RCH) on 12th; Long Nab on 13th (MF) and Skipsea on 19th (WFC); during March at Atwick on 5th and Filey on 13th, 19th and 26th (DJW *et al*), and in April one over Kilnsea on 25th.

Two off Flamborough on 1st May (DIMW) and singles there on 20th, and at Spurn on 15th May.

Singles north off Scarborough on 7th and 11th September, and four on 12th (RHA, MDW); at Flamborough on 10th, 13th and 17th, and at Withernsea on 21st.

Records peaked during October with singles at Spurn on 2nd, 20th, 21st and two on 29th; at Flamborough on 8th, 16th and 29th, and two on 17th and 30th (DIMW, PAL); at Filey on 13th, 20th and 30th (SC, HJW *et al*); at Scarborough on 17th (JH), and two on 31st (RNH), and at Ravenscar on 28th (TME).

One at Filey Brigg on 4th November; two at Flamborough on 11th November, and singles on three dates to 10th December.

Inland, singles at Eccup Res. on 18th October (TD); at Thornton Steward Res. from 29th October to 2nd November (DF); and at Blackmoorfoot Res. from 26th to 31st December (MLD *et al*).

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*

An adult in winter plumage flew north off Flamborough Head on 10th December (DGH, PAL).

Not yet submitted to *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Bred at nine sites in V.C. 61 including six pairs along the Lower Derwent. Maxima at non-breeding waters of ten at Hornsea Mere on 3rd April, and the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 13th September, and seven at Tophill Low Res. on 2nd February. Singles at Filey Brigg on 29th January and 29th March were the first records there.

In V.C. 62 at least five sites had breeding pairs including Strensall Common where three pairs reared six young. Seven at Brompton Pond on 26th January.

At least 25 pairs bred in V.C. 63 rearing over 65 young, and others were present at many other waters in the early months. 17 at Wath Ings on 16th April; 40 at Potteric Carr on 13th August, 27 at Pugney's G.P. on 15th, and 22 at Wintersett Res. on 7th November.

Numbers in V.C. 64 appear lower than a few years ago, with successful pairs at only seven localities, although pairs were present at other sites. The highest counts were in September with 22 at Mickletown Ings on 7th; 14 at Knotford Nook on 24th, and 18 at Fairburn Ings on 25th. Some remained in the Dales during the winter months on the quieter stretches of the rivers.

Nine at Bolton-on-Swale on 8th October.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

The wintering flock on the sea south of Bridlington numbered 104 on 29th January (SML), and 160 on 4th March (JCL), with lower counts on other dates and declining during March down to 35 by 26th. 34 off Flamborough on 8th February and also off Skipsea on 19th were doubtless associated with this flock. 38 south of Bridlington on 26th November.

Breeding numbers in V.C. 61 appear to be increasing, with at least 21 pairs at 13 sites. 15 pairs were at Broomfleet Ponds, and six of these had 20 young on 2nd July.

29 were at Castle Howard on 26th March where five pairs remained to breed, as did a further seven pairs at localities north of York in V.C. 62.

In V.C. 63, 34 pairs bred rearing 40 young. Many nesting attempts failed due to flooding in the late spring. There were a few January records before the usual spring build-up which included, 18 at Broomhill Flash; 31 at Wintersett Res. (7th April), and 26 at Pugney's G.P. (30th April). High numbers were at Wintersett Res., with over 20 from August to November, including peaks of 32 in August and 45 on 7th September, and 16 were still present on 31st December. Up to five were at many waters during December.

A few present during January in V.C. 64 including six at Hay-a-Park, where there were 17 on 28th March. Breeding successes in this vice-county were below normal, although quite good at Malham Tarn where there were over 20 in September. 16 at Eccup Res. on

10th October and 52 at Fairburn Ings on 24th. Most waters deserted by early December, except for Hay-a-Park which had nine.

One pair bred at Bolton-on-Swale G.P.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Singles at Flamborough on 6th February; at Bridlington on 11th and 13th (JCL, RHA), and at Mappleton on 20th (WFC). Hornsea Mere had one to two in the early months, one of which remained until 12th July. Two at Flamborough on 1st May (DIMW).

More numerous during the autumn with singles at Flamborough on 9th and 13th August, and during September (four days), and November (two days). Filey Brigg had one on 12th September, with others in early October, and on two November days. One at Fraisthorpe on 17th September, and one south off Withernsea on 25th (SML). One at Scarborough on 12th November (RHA).

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

During February singles at Flamborough on 6th; at Fraisthorpe on 12th and 13th (AJL, NAB); at Burniston on 20th (MLD); in Filey Bay on 21st and 22nd (PJD, TLH), and at Hornsea Mere on 24th and 26th (IJP, JCL).

One off Hornsea on 18th October (GRB); one on Easington Lagoons on 23rd October (PAD *et al*), and one at Hornsea Mere on 5th November (SML, IJP). Singles off Flamborough on 10th September, 30th October and 17th December (AMA, DGH, PAL).

Inland, singles at Eccup Res. from 9th October to 5th November (RCH, DJP); at Knotford Nook on 5th November (PL), and from 27th to 29th (TK, PJC).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

One pair bred successfully rearing three young. Three pairs attempted to breed at two other sites. Suggested cause of failure was believed to be due to aggressive behaviour by other species, in particular Mute Swan, *Cygnus olor*, and by Coot, *Fulica atra*.

One at Tophill Low Res. on 30th January (BF).

One at Hornsea Mere on 27th March and 4th April (IJP).

A pair at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 9th May (TC, JED); three birds at Fairburn Ings on 16th May, and one on 20th (GRW, CW); one at Wath Ings on 2nd and 14th June (PM, SR); one at Nosterfield on 6th and 7th June, and one at Tophill Low Res. on 3rd July (AB, AL, TR).

Autumn records of singles at Knotford Nook on 2nd August (PJC); at Royd Moor Res. on 4th and 5th September (JMD, JL *et al*); at Thrybergh Res. from 12th to 17th October (WD, SHH, SJH), and at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 4th December (MLD, JMP).

Additions to the 1982 Report: Singles at Tophill Low Res. on 28th July (PD, RL), 9th August (IF, PLI), and 15th October (RL).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

At the colony on Bempton Cliffs 832 sites were occupied in June. Present at ten sites on Stoup Brow Quarry on 20th June, and on parapet ledges on the Grand Hotel, Scarborough throughout the summer.

Large numbers passed Flamborough and Filey in the early months, with at the former site 3,825 on 21st January; 7,800 on 6th February; 19,300 on 8th; 9,560 on 11th, and 6,050 on 12th February, and at the latter site 1,500 an hour on 7th February, and 840 an hour on 12th.

The autumn counts were lower with 2,650 on 16th November at Flamborough, and 500 an hour on 19th December at Filey Brigg. 360 north at Spurn on 8th September.

Three inland records during June of singles over Blacktoft Sands on 7th; at Whitestone Cliff near Thirsk on 10th, and over Fairburn Ings on 20th, and another over Tophill Low Res. on 26th July.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

Singles at Flamborough on 28th July, 2nd August, 2nd, 4th and 5th September (PAL, DGH, AMA), and at Filey Brigg on 24th September (SC, PMS, HJW).

Addition to the 1982 Report: One flying south on 18th August (JCL, GN) at Spurn.

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*

At Flamborough singles on 6th and 13th August, two on 15th August, and singles on 28th August and 12th September (AMA, DGH *et al*).

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

A good autumn passage with higher numbers than in any year since 1978. One at Flamborough on 2nd February was exceptionally early.

Singles on 16th July at Filey, and Flamborough where there were 19 on 30th. The heaviest passage during August, with one at Scarborough on 12th; 27 at Filey, 622 at Flamborough, and 130 at Spurn on 13th; 15 at Scarborough, 21 at Filey, 194 at Flamborough and 53 at Spurn on 14th; 54 (in one hour) at Scarborough, 113 at Filey, 457 at Flamborough, and 98 at Spurn on 28th; and finally 67 at Filey and 328 at Flamborough on 29th.

Smaller numbers during September, with obvious days of passage being the 7th, with 177 at Scarborough, 259 at Flamborough and 123 at Spurn; the 8th, with 105 at Scarborough, 67 at Flamborough and 94 at Spurn; and the 25th, with 161 at Flamborough and 45 at Spurn.

Few during October. The last one at Flamborough on 20th November.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

A scattering of very early records, with singles at Flamborough on 23rd and 30th January, and 7th February, when there was also one at Filey, and three north at Scalby Mills on 12th February.

One at Filey on 19th April, and a few at various places during May, plus 23 on 26th and 16 on 27th at Spurn, and 27 at Flamborough on 26th. A good passage during mid and late June which peaked on 15th, with 45 at Filey and 190 at Flamborough. Quieter during July apart from the 30th, with 247 at Flamborough and 44 at Filey.

55 off Filey on 1st August and 246 at Flamborough on 13th; then on 14th, 37 at Scarborough, 32 at Filey and 206 at Flamborough. Smaller numbers in the first week of September, with peaks of 58 at Spurn, 56 at Flamborough (6th), 36 at Filey (10th) and 72 at Scarborough (7th). Occasional birds at the above sites during the last three months.

Birds showing characteristics of the Balearic race *P.p. mauretanicus* at Flamborough included four on 30th July, ten on 13th, six on 14th and three on 29th August and two on 6th September (PAL *et al*), and at Filey Brigg two on 27th August, and one on 5th September.

One showing characteristics of the race *P.p. yelkouan* off Flamborough on 4th June (PAL).

One was found dying at Nun Monkton on 14th June following a period of north-westerly gales. One found at Allerton near Pickering on 6th September was released later at Filey, and one found about the same date at Stockton-on-the-Forest was also released at the coast. One flew west at Blacktoft Sands on 8th September.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

One north off Filey Brigg on 2nd August (TLH), and off Spurn on 30th September. During October off Spurn, two north on 24th and one south on 29th, and two south off Easington on 30th (PIH). One north off Flamborough on 16th (PAL), and one south off Spurn on 19th November.

One found dead in Settle on 21st October (AC, BS).

Correction to the 1982 Report: second sentence should read 'One at Pugney's G.P. on 20th November was killed by a predator (IB, RPC, PS).'

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

On 3rd September one south off Filey Brigg (PJD), and six at Spurn, four of which flew north-east, one north, and one was over the Humber. Three off Flamborough on 5th (PAL), and two off Spurn on 30th September.

One at Thrybergh Res. on 7th September (WD, AR, KJH).

Addition to the 1982 Report: One at Ulley Res. on 16th September.

Gannet *Sula bassana*

The 542 occupied nests at the Bempton colony represented an increase of nearly 50 per cent on the 1982 numbers, but no details of breeding success were received.

Counts along the coast in the early months were only moderate, 478 at Flamborough on 11th February being the highest.

Over 1,000 at Flamborough on three August days including 1,201 on 13th; 394 at Spurn on 3rd September, and 260 north in one hour at Filey on 9th October.

Inland, an immature flew east over Fairburn Ings on 6th May; two over Blacktoft Sands on 8th September, and also seen at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge, where another occurred on 15th September. A juvenile was picked up at Stocksbridge on 14th September, and an immature flew west at Sprotbrough Flash on 12th October.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

At least ten occupied nests to the north of Filey Brigg.

Coastal counts were quite moderate with peaks of 70 at Flamborough on 25th September, and 66 at Spurn on 17th October.

Birds showing characteristics of the race *P.c. sinensis* at Filey on 11th, 12th and 24th March (six), and at Spurn on 20th March.

The roost at Hornsea Mere had higher numbers than usual with 54 in January, 84 in February, and 104 on March 5th, which included four of the race *P.c. sinensis*. The maximum at Tophill Low Res. was 15 on 2nd October.

Elsewhere inland records were numerous and occurred in every month particularly during the spring, many being of parties of three to five. Higher numbers included 12 at Bolton-on-Swale on 2nd April; 11 at Blacktoft Sands and seven at Southfield Res. on 5th May; 13 over Thrybergh Res. on 17th May; seven at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 1st October, and at Thornton Steward Res. on 29th December.

Adults showing characteristics of the race *P.c. sinensis* on the Lower Derwent on 18th and 23rd March.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

A survey at Flamborough revealed that this species is a winter visitor to the headland in large numbers. Up to 315 roosted during January, and were observed to fly south at dawn into Bridlington Bay. Numbers thereafter declined to below 100, not exceeding that figure again until late August. A large increase from 231 on 14th to 553 on 15th October, and a record count of 634 on 30th October. High numbers remained during November and December, with maxima of 520 from 12th to 14th November, and 432 on 31st December.

Present almost daily at Filey, with usually less than 25, but 50 on 7th and 119 on 8th October. 28 north at Spurn on 21st October.

Inland, a juvenile was found at a roadside near Allerton Park on 9th September. Four at Hay-a-Park on 20th September, down to two on 21st that remained until 2nd October, with one staying to 5th.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

In the early months singles at Wheldrake Ings on 2nd February (TMC); at Hornsea Mere on 6th February and 5th March, and at Blacktoft Sands on 18th March (AG).

One at Folkton and Flixton Carrs from 7th November to 17th December (WAC, MF, DP). One at Hornsea Mere from 2nd November to 31st December (IJP, SML). Records of singles at Aughton on 4th November; at Storwood on 11th December, and Wheldrake

Ings on 19th and 22nd December (GS, TED, DAR) may refer to the same individual. One at Strensall Common on 26th December (DW).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

A few of the heronries are slowly increasing in size. That on the Lower Derwent had 14 pairs, and a similar number were in Sleighholmedale, and at Bretton Park five pairs reared 13 young. Three other heronries in V.C. 62 totalled at least seven pairs, and in V.C. 64 five heronries held 22 pairs, but that at Healaugh was not counted. Four young were reared at a heronry near Sheffield. Still breeding in V.C. 65 although no counts are available.

At least eight localities had ten to 14 after the breeding season. Higher counts reported of 17 at Lindley Wood on 31st January; 22 at Johnson's Marsh, Scarborough on 6th March; 38 at Scampston Lake on 26th March; 22 at Howkeld (V.C. 62) on 22nd May; 23 at Wheldrake Ings on 25th June, and a total of 33 at Broomhill Flash and Wath Ings on 10th July.

Three came in off the sea at Spurn on 26th August.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

One at Hornsea Mere on the morning of 1st October; at Newton near Fairburn on 3rd (SP), and at Laycock near Keighley on 6th (DF). These may all be sightings of the same individual.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

An adult in the Spurn and Easington areas on 16th and 17th April (SLJ *et al*), and one at Blacktoft Sands from 14th to 16th April, and another from 21st to 23rd (AG). Single adults also over Fairburn Ings on 30th April (JG, VP *et al*); at Broomhill Flash on 1st and 2nd May (JES, GG *et al*), and at Grenoside on 2nd May (AP). Some of the above records may refer to the same individual(s).

A first summer bird at Johnson's Marsh, Scarborough on 26th July (CG, PJD *et al*).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Over 50 at Hornsea Mere during the first two months, down to 30 in the spring but peaking at 141 on 30th July during the moult, then declining slowly to 80 by November and 20 by the year end.

Apparently quite a successful breeding season in the eastern parts of V.C. 61, with at least 14 pairs, ten of which had 49 young. Less successful further inland particularly in V.C. 63 where only five pairs were reported, these rearing 13 young. Seven pairs in V.C. 64 away from the lower Aire Valley where 17 pairs produced only 21 young. Spring flooding and human interference kept success rates down.

40 at Burshill Pits, Brandesburton on 16th January. At least 40 at Fairburn Ings all the year, with a peak of 202, during the moult, on 28th July. 58 at Mickletown Ings on 22nd September, and 67 at Lowther Marsh on 16th October. Birds regularly at Scalby Mills during the autumn with eight on 13th November.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Apart from the Lower Derwent, which had 104 in January; 43 in February, and 60 in March (up to 13th when 23 were the last); there were only nine reports, all of small numbers except for 40 at Thrybergh Res. on 28th February.

After three over Spurn on 17th October there were small numbers at seven localities at the month end, and similar numbers at many more in early November. 26 at Tophill Low Res. on 4th November; 14 south-west over Tockwith on 12th November, on which date 40 arrived in the Lower Derwent. 17 at Hornsea Mere on 16th November.

With small numbers at about 20 localities during December, 14 at Flamborough on 4th; 12 at Broomhill Flash on 18th December, and the Lower Derwent flock reached 93.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

A herd of 102 at Fairburn Ings on 2nd January still numbered about 80 on 3rd March, but declined to 27 by 2nd April. Other wintering areas had higher numbers than in 1982, with 41 on the Lower Derwent in January and 31 in March; 20 at Bolton-on-Swale in January, and in the Ribble Valley up to April; 39 at Thorlby on 27th March, and 11 at Broomhill Flash during March. Hornsea Mere had 48 on 11th March that left on 12th, and the same number flew north over Filey Brigg later that day. 20 south over the sea at Mapleton on 20th March. One found dead at Smelt Hills Tarn on 14th March appeared to have died of lead poisoning.

The two 'resident' birds remained at Fairburn Ings throughout the year, and the one at Wheldrake Ings having regained the power of flight left in March. One at Rawcliffe Pond from 11th June onwards.

Small numbers began to return from 18th October, with parties of 17 north over Broomhill Flash on 28th October, when 22 were at Thorpe Marsh and 20 at Hellifield on 30th. During November, 44 at Gallaber on 12th; 18 at Great Langton on 18th, and smaller numbers at over 20 localities. The herd at Fairburn Ings built up to 101 by 30th December. 14 near Filey on 4th, and 14 flew south at Spurn on 14th December. 17 at Ryther on 18th December.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Two near Stone Creek on 16th January (SML). One at Wheldrake Ings on 5th March (TMC). Two at Hornsea Mere on 13th March (PIH). One flew east over Fairburn Ings with ten Pink-footed Geese, *A. brachyrhynchus*, on 5th November (GRW *et al*).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had 1,000 on 1st January, and 759 on 9th, but generally about 400, then down to 200 by the month end; 50 on 13th February, and very few in March. Five returned on 19th September, and peak numbers thereafter of 74 on 29th September; 662 on 28th October; 500 on 3rd November, down to 172 on 8th; 600 on 22nd; 119 on 23rd, then none until 14 on 14th December, and 225 on 18th.

Maxima observed at Blacktoft Sands moving from the Humber of 450 on 2nd January and 260 on 8th November.

Most skeins in the early months moved west and north-west, and included 621 in nine skeins over Netherton, Huddersfield on 2nd March.

Movement in the autumn months was more extensive, and in general skeins were flying east and south-east. Exceptional dates were 5th November, with four skeins of over 100, and one of 240 over Crosspool, Sheffield; 20th November with possibly over 1,000 passing over the Sheffield area including 420 over Concord Park, and 23rd December, with over 400 in four skeins over the Bradford and Huddersfield areas.

Small numbers, usually single figures, reported on dates throughout the year with flocks of Canada Geese, *Branta canadensis*, and Greylag Geese, *A. Anser*.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Two in the Ribble Valley from 6th to 17th January, and one to two in the Farnham and Nosterfield areas up to 2nd April, these actually involving four individuals. In the Lower Derwent one on 7th January and ten on 12th; three from 29th January to 16th April, plus 11 on 2nd February; one on 5th March, and four on 3rd April. Four at Stone Creek on 16th January. One at Hornsea Mere from 15th January to 19th March.

Three south at Filey on 23rd February. One of the race *A.a. albifrons* at Blacktoft Sands from 13th March to 22nd May.

Singles at York University on 13th and 25th May, and at Castle Howard on 12th June, may have been of escape origin.

Two at Knotford Nook on 13th September.

Eight in the Ribble Valley on 16th and 17th October, and on the latter date three at Fairburn Ings, and eight west at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge and Blacktoft Sands.

Three south over the Humber at Spurn on 12th November, and four on the following day, when two were at Filey and at Pugney's G.P., and one at Coniston Cold. One at Tophill Low Res. from 18th November on most days to 31st December; four north over Spurn on 15th November; five at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 27th November, and one at Hornsea Mere from 3rd to 10th December.

The injured bird remained at Fairburn Ings all the year.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

The breeding population in V.C. 61 continues to increase and spread, with at least 12 sites being occupied. Full details of success are not available, but the species is obviously thriving, and also bred at Castle Howard Lake; at Thorpe Marsh near Doncaster; at Southfield Res.; at three sites in V.C. 64, and at Bolton-on-Swale.

With the species becoming so widespread it has been recorded on many waters, therefore only the highest counts are published here.

Hornsea Mere had 469 on 17th September and up to 300 to the year end. Tophill Low Res. had 146 on 23rd September, and 185 on 13th November. At Castle Howard Lake maxima of 209 in March; 140 in August and 186 in December, whilst the Lower Derwent had 193 in February; 111 in August and 180 in November. 49 at Nosterfield in August and early September. 180 at Bolton-on-Swale on 18th December.

Small skeins overhead at four places in January and February, and three in December. Larger skeins also occurred in February with 85 north-west over Thrybergh Res. on 2nd; 120 north-west over South Elmsall on 4th, and 87 south-west over Scrayingham on 13th.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

A blue phase which arrived in the Lower Derwent in December 1982 remained until 6th March, and after visiting Castle Howard Lake briefly eventually settled there until 10th September. Up to five white phase spent the year at Staveley and at Gouthwaite Res., and two were at Harewood Park and Eccup Res. all the year.

Published with the escape proviso.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Breeding now recorded in all vice-counties, and continues to spread both in the lowlands of the east, and in the Pennine uplands.

Many localities had maxima of over 200, and the highest at each of these in date order were: 471 at Studley Royal, and 250 along the Lower Derwent in January; 614 at Givendale in February; 312 at Fairburn Ings on 19th June; 230 at Castle Howard Lake in September; 500 at Farnham G.P. in October; 337 at Pugney's G.P. on 15th October; 310 at Bretton Park on 11th November; 580 in the Harewood Park and Eccup Res. areas on 8th December, and 210 at Coniston Cold on 18th.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

It becomes increasingly difficult to distinguish between probable wild birds and the escapes that are becoming established as a genuine feral population based on the free-flying flock that breeds at Flamingo Park Zoo. Recorded throughout the year in many parts of the county often as singles or small parties, and only the higher numbers are included in this report.

Hornsea Mere had 48 up to the end of February, up to five of which remained until next winter when 60 arrived on 3rd December. 11 in the Harewood Park and Eccup Res. areas from October to the year end. Possible genuine migrants were parties of four, six and four south over Spurn on 30th September, 6th October and 12th November respectively, and four in the Humber Wildfowl Refuge area in early October.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

The flock on the Humber at Spurn held higher numbers than in the past two years with maxima of 220 in January; 245 in February; 220 in March and 135 in early April, and up to 29 in early May. Birds from this flock frequently move west along the Humber and 187

were off Skeffling on 14th February. A pricked bird remained at Spurn until 16th June, and another was with it on many days.

Seven near Ousefleet on 23rd January; four over Fairburn Ings on 26th February; one at Hagg Bridge on 15th March and at Wheldrake Ings on 18th and 19th, and five south off Long Nab, Burniston on 27th March.

20 east at Whitton Sands on 3rd May. Singles south off Filey Brigg on 5th July, and Spurn on 14th August.

Return commenced in late September, with five south at Withernsea on 29th, and on the following day three south at Filey Brigg, and on the Humber at Spurn. Small numbers along the coast in October, with 20 south past Spurn on 10th. Obvious days of southerly passage were 12th November, with 77 at Filey; 130 at Flamborough, and 56 at Spurn, with smaller numbers on 13th.

In the meantime numbers increased on the Humber at Spurn, although showing considerable fluctuations between peaks, with 53 on 2nd October and 105 on 31st; 85 on 1st November and 179 on 13th; 140 on 1st December and 153 on 3rd, then double figures to 30th, but only five on 31st.

One over Sprotbrough Flash on 10th November, and two over Fairburn Ings on 13th. 23 grazing near Ousefleet on 11th and 47 on 13th November. 52 on 14th and 48 on 15th November at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge.

Two adults of the race *B.b. hortia* at Spurn on 17th October.

Addition to the 1982 Report: Two north-west over Gildersleets, Settle on 29th November.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Two east over Pebley Pond on 25th January. Probably the same individual was responsible for records of singles at Thrybergh Res. on 7th March; Wath Ings and Broomhill Flash from 9th to 11th and on 28th and 30th March; at Frickley Park on 20th March; over Lemonroyd S.F. by the River Aire on 31st March, and at Swillington Park on 1st April.

Two east at Wath Ings on 26th June and one at Thrybergh Res. on 3rd December. Published with the escape proviso.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

One over Wintersett Res. on 17th September appearing at Fairburn Ings later that day, and remaining to 18th October.

One north at Filey Brigg and one south at Hornsea on 24th September were probably both sightings of one individual.

Published with the escape proviso.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

The inland breeding population continues to increase. At least 32 pairs in the Pocklington Canal and Lower Derwent areas. One to two pairs at Tophill Low Res., Catwick, Masham, Nosterfield, Bolton-on-Swale and York University that were successful. Breeding attempted in the Ribble Valley (three pairs), at Fairburn Ings and probably at three other sites in V.C. 61.

Bred along the Humber estuary having the best season for six years in the upper reaches. About 20 pairs bred at Blacktoft Sands although few young were seen in creches.

The count along the Lower Humber on 13th March gave about 930. A count from Faxfleet to Spurn on 4th September gave 2,336 whilst a count from Goole to Spurn on 2nd October gave 3,233 (per DBC). The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had 250 in the early months, but peaked in the autumn with 650 on 8th September; 800 on 28th; 980 on 2nd October; 565 on 13th November, down to 150 by the year end.

Coastal passage light and mainly southerly, with 57 at Scarborough on 19th July; 36 at Spurn on 30th October, and on 12th November, 152 at Filey; 162 at Flamborough and 24 at Spurn.

Recorded widely at inland sites, with small parties occurring in every month. The Lower Derwent had 49 on 13th March and 64 on 23rd May in the Ellerton and Aughton area. During May 12 at Tollerton on 2nd; 25 west at Blacktoft Sands on 5th and ten at Broomhill Flash on 12th. Pugney's G.P. had 25 on 30th September; 15 on 2nd and 3rd October, and on 17th December. 15 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd October; 18 north-west at Thrybergh Res. on 13th November and 11 at Eccup Res. on 17th December.

Easterly movements inland in July of 16 over Lindley Moor, Huddersfield on 12th; 34 over Dewsbury S.F. on 25th, and 84 over Whiteholme Res. on 26th. 26 over Fairburn Ings on 9th October.

1,167 recorded moving east at Spurn (mainly July to early September), with maxima of 170 on 14th July and 95 on 11th August.

374 returning birds moved west over Blacktoft Sands between 5th September and 13th November, including 141 on 21st September. 105 grazing at Ousefleet on 9th October.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

Two full winged pairs on a farm pond near Atwick on 26th February had departed later. Published with the escape proviso.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

Single males at Blacktoft Sands and Saltmarshe Delph on 30th April; Newmillerdam on 16th May and Hornsea Mere on 9th June. A male at Wheldrake Ings on 1st May, 27th October and 12th November and one at Castle Howard on 23rd November. A female at Fairburn Ings on 21st October. A female at Dringhouses on five dates from 12th November and one at Haxby on 26th December.

Published with the escape proviso.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had 2,000 at the beginning of the year, but numbers fluctuated widely in the early months down to 40 on 17th January and up to 2,400 on 6th and 7th February. An influx through September brought numbers up to 2,000 by 2nd October, with generally at least 1,500 to mid December; a peak of 4,000 on 23rd November, but less than 1,000 for the last two weeks of December.

The Lower Derwent had higher numbers with the maxima for the first four and last two months being respectively: 3,500; 4,500; 4,755; 1,200; 3,600 and 4,708. One pair bred in this area and four other pairs probably bred.

Occurred at many inland waters during the early months, with low counts at most sites. Exceptions during January were peaks of 513 at Hornsea Mere on 9th; 450 in the Ribble Valley on 13th; 550 at Bolton-on-Swale on 16th, and 109 at Thornton Steward Res. 273 at Tophill Low Res. on 14th February.

Good numbers during the autumn. Blacktoft Sands had 280 on 9th October; 500 on 12th November, and 112 on 20th December. 99 at Thrybergh Res. and 97 at Fairburn Ings on 12th November. 80 at Gallaber (V.C. 64) on 19th November. Other peaks occurred during December, with 450 at Tophill Low Res., 400 at Rathmell and 513 at Bolton-on-Swale on 18th, and 696 at Hornsea Mere on 30th.

Little coastal passage noted in the early months apart from 350 south at Mapleton on 20th February.

More in the autumn, with on 12th September 223 north at Scarborough; 153 at Filey and 85 at Flamborough; on 24th September 126 south at Spurn; on 29th September 116 at Filey and 127 at Flamborough; on 30th October 121 at Spurn and on 12th November 74 north at Filey, 157 at Flamborough, and 80 south at Spurn.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Successful breeding at five sites, though not necessarily by all the pairs that were present at each of these sites. Tophill Low Res. (three pairs); the Lower Derwent (five pairs); Shiptonthorpe area (at least two pairs); Fairburn Ings (at least two pairs), and Potteric Carr (one pair). Four pairs on Scampston Lake on 5th June.

Hornsea Mere remains a favourite wintering area, with maxima of 210 on 12th February and 225 on 5th November. Small numbers (up to six) on just less than 30 waters in both the early months, and during the autumn. Higher counts at Tophill Low Res., with 37 on 14th February; 78 on 10th October and 61 on 11th December; at Fairburn Ings, with 45 on 30th September; at Mickletown Ings, with 31 on 22nd September, and at Wintersett Res.. with nine on 4th March.

Teal *Anas crecca*

The Lower Derwent had maxima of over 1,000 for each of the first four months including 1,290 in April, and 1,780 in December as the highest count in a moderate year. Only 300 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 9th January, however autumn numbers were higher but showed considerable fluctuation. 900 by late August, and 2,500 on 28th September, then a decline during October, apart from 1,200 on 26th; moderate numbers in November (648 on 13th), and usually less than 200 during December.

Eight waters had maxima in the early months of between 200 and 500, and Hornsea Mere had 625 on 9th January, and Fairburn Ings had 546 on 14th February. During the autumn ten waters had maxima of between 200 and 650, and Blacktoft Sands had 1,000 during September, and 1,400 on 2nd October; Hornsea Mere had 1,000 on 20th December, and Potteric Carr 800 on 23rd December. 778 were along the Humber from Hull to east of Paull on 27th November.

Sea passage numbers were low generally being less than 100 per day. 246 south at Mapleton on 20th February. At Filey 191 on 29th August and 129 on 24th September; at Flamborough, 169 on 29th August and 129 on 12th November; and at Spurn 184 south and 40 east on 24th September.

Breeding reported from all vice-counties with over 20 localities involved.

Individual drakes showing characteristics of the North American race, *A.c. carolinensis*, at Long Preston on 8th and 9th March (BS, SR); at Blacktoft Sands on 23rd and 24th June (AG); at Fairburn Ings on 27th October (AB), and at Wheldrake Ings on 17th December (TB).

Accepted by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Although some inland waters had high maxima, particularly in the autumn, total numbers in the county were not exceptional as both the Lower Derwent floods and the Humber Wildfowl Refuge held fewer than usual. The Lower Derwent had 1,500 in February and December, and at the Wildfowl Refuge peaks of 2,700 on 3rd January and 2,100 on 18th December.

Eccup Res. had 2,866 on 1st January, and Fairburn Ings, Potteric Carr and Leighton Res. had maxima of over 1,000 in the first two months. Maxima during the last three months at Eccup Res., Leighton Res., Harewood Lake, Potteric Carr, Blacktoft Sands and along the shore of the Lower Humber were all between 1,100 and 1,300. 2,300 at Fairburn Ings on 11th September; 2,000 at Tophill Low Res. on 18th December, and at Hornsea Mere over 1,000 during July and August, and 2,500 on 30th December.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Up to four at over 20 localities in the early months. A few recorded between April and August including singles at Blacktoft Sands and Hornsea Mere in June. Considerably more during the autumn, with up to five at over 40 localities. All higher counts are listed below.

The Lower Derwent had 20 in January; 50 in March, and 40 in December. Seven pairs were present in this area in the breeding season, and two of these bred rearing eight and three young respectively. Some of the other five pairs may have bred (YOC). The only other high counts before September were along the Humber, with 55 on 9th January, and 120 on 13th March at Cherry Cob.

Autumn numbers were higher, with on the Humber, peaks of 71 at the Wildfowl Refuge on 20th September; 107 on 2nd October, and 181 on 18th December at Cherry Cob. Many

inland waters had their highest counts during September, with at Fairburn Ings 29 on 10th; at Tophill Low Res. 11, and at Wath Ings 18 on 18th; at Blackmoorfoot Res. 22 on 23rd; at Hornsea Mere 22 on 24th; at Redmires Res. 15 on 26th, and at Blacktoft Sands 60 on 30th and on 1st October.

Some westerly movement over the Upper Humber in September and October, but numbers not exceptional, and further inland parties overhead included, 17 south-west at Roundhay on 25th September; 25 east at Sprotbrough on 2nd October, and 15 north at Thrybergh Res. on 12th November.

Coastal movement was minimal, but on 15th October Filey, Flamborough and Spurn all had their highest counts, with nine, ten and 16 respectively.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

A male and two females at Flamborough on 13th March (PAL), and another female on 8th April, then one to two at 13 sites in the period April to June, with three at Mickletown Ings on 16th and 17th May, and at Wath Ings in mid June.

In addition to the above the Lower Derwent and Pocklington Canal areas had an exceptional breeding season, with two pairs rearing a total of five young at one site, and another breeding at a second site. Five other pairs were also present in the area.

During the autumn, 12 sites had one or two, with five each at Fairburn Ings on 17th August and Tophill Low Res. on 25th August, and up to four at Mickletown Ings in late August. Late singles at Tophill Low Res. on 15th and Blacktoft Sands on 19th October.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Tophill Low Res. had good numbers in the early months, with 70 on 19th March as the maximum. Other peaks were 53 at Hornsea Mere and 35 at Potteric Carr on 29th January; 25 at Wath Ings on 2nd February; 60 at Fairburn Ings on 5th February, and 40 on the Lower Derwent in March.

A good breeding season on the Lower Derwent, with about 45 pairs present. Three successful broods at Tophill Low Res. At Fairburn Ings three pairs reared 22 young, and single broods were at Blacktoft Sands and Broomhill.

Significant autumn maxima of 18 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 2nd September; 14 at Castle Howard Lake on 10th; 107 at Tophill Low Res. on 12th, and 28 at Wath Ings on 19th September; 60 at Denaby Ings on 9th October; 49 at Old Denaby on 20th; 15 at Wigganthonre Pond and 78 at Potteric Carr and 40 on the Lower Derwent on 25th October; 84 at Hornsea Mere on 5th and 40 at Blacktoft Sands on 28th November, and 15 at BOS on 18th December.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

A female with five ducklings on Welham Pond on 12th June. Four of the young survived and were pure bred (TB *et al.*).

Single males at Hornsea Mere from 19th to 21st May, on 5th and 12th November, with a second on 13th November, then a pair there on 14th (SML, IJP, KR). A male at Malham Tarn from 28th August to 11th October (BS, EJ, TW). A female at Fairburn Ings from 19th September to 13th October, and a male from 16th October to 11th December. Three at Bolton-on-Swale on 8th October.

Published with the escape proviso.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

In the Aire Valley east of Leeds a total of 20 pairs reared 68 young at Mickletown Ings, Allerton Bywater and Fairburn Ings. Two pairs each at Potteric Carr and Pugney's G.P. reared a total of 13 young. A female at Drax with four young on 11th June. At least 14 pairs in V.C. 61 made breeding attempts, but not all were successful. A brood of four at Southfield Res.

Numbers in the county were lower than in recent years. Eight waters had maxima of between 100 and 200 in the early months, with higher counts of 327 at Fairburn Ings, and

285 at Hornsea Mere in January; 561 at Swillington Ings on 13th March, and 300 at Southfield Res. in February.

290 at Hornsea Mere on 7th July.

Autumn peaks were also lower than usual, and the higher counts included, 360 at Fairburn Ings on 25th, and 286 at Pugney's G.P. on 29th September; 207 at Hay-a-Park, and 464 at Wintersett Res. in October; 300 at Tophill Low Res. on 8th November; 205 at Malham Tarn on 11th, and 555 on the Lower Derwent on 26th December. No other waters had more than 100.

44 south at Spurn on 30th October.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Single males at Tophill Low Res. until 7th April; at Hornsea Mere on 26th February (IJP); at Wheldrake Ings on 7th May (TJB), and at Hornsea Mere on 18th June (SML).

Under consideration by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

Single males at Mickletown Ings on 24th and 26th May (PRG, RCH) and at Allerton Bywater from 4th June to 17th July (JM, EAM). An immature male at Tophill Low Res. from 23rd October to 12th November (JL *et al*). A female at Pugney's G.P. on 26th December (PS, GT).

Correction to the 1982 Report: The eclipse male at Pugney's G.P. from 3rd to 6th October was probably a Pochard/Ferruginous Duck hybrid.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Bred widely in the county including at least nine sites in V.C. 61; eight sites in V.C. 62; 17 sites in V.C. 63; at many sites in V.C. 64 where 44 broods totalled 250, and at one site in V.C. 65, with 24 young from four broods.

Four waters had 100 to 200 in the early months, and eight waters held similar numbers in the second half of the year. Higher maxima were 451 on 14th March and 595 on 11th December at Tophill Low Res.; 547 on 4th April, and 262 on 5th August at Hornsea Mere; 347 in January, 484 on 1st August and 384 in December at Fairburn Ings, and 310 on 4th December at Wintersett Res.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Records of one to two at about 15 waters in the first four months, and at a similar number of waters in the last five months. Three isolated records in the months May to July.

The only higher counts on inland waters were of three at Pugney's G.P. on 5th and 6th April, and seven as the maximum at Hornsea Mere on 21st February, where birds were present until 7th May.

Almost completely absent from the Humber at Spurn apart from eight on 10th December.

Coastal passage light, with 17 at Spurn on 30th October and ten at Flamborough on 12th November, all other records being of four or less.

Altogether a considerable decline in numbers, which is in line with the national situation.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

The flock at Filey numbered up to 25 in the early months, with fewer during the spring (up to ten), down to two during late July and early August, with an autumn maximum of 21 on 12th September. 11 at Whitby on 5th January; 10 at Scarborough on 27th June, and five in the harbour there from 28th November into December. Maxima at Spurn of 47 on the sea on 22nd October, and 76 on the Humber on 18th December.

All other numbers of note along the coast were of birds on passage. These included 20 north at Filey on 16th June; 50 north at Easington on 22nd October, and 24 south at Spurn on 24th. Flamborough had birds regularly, but exceptional numbers on 12th and 13th

November, with 171 and 281 respectively, whilst Filey had 26 and 106 north on these dates, and Spurn had 146 north, and 30 south on 13th November, 50 at Flamborough on 18th December.

Inland, a female flew west over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 2nd January, and a male was at Millfield Lagoons, Horbury from January to October, visiting Pugney's G.P. on 5th October (PS, JRS, IB et al).

A male of the race *S.m. borealis* at Flamborough on 9th February (AMA).

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Most frequent in the early months off Flamborough, with a maximum of nine on 8th February, and in Filey Bay where usually one or two, but four on 24th March and 15th April. One to two occasionally in the winter months at Ravenscar, Scarborough, Bridlington Bay, Fraisthorpe, Wils thorpe and Withernsea. Nine south off Mappleton on 20th February.

At Spurn one on 15th May: singles on seven days between 16th and 30th October, plus three on 28th and at least five on 29th. Nine off Flamborough on 29th October, then up to seven on several days, and a record count of 26 on 12th November, when Filey had five and Scarborough two.

Two at Easington Lagoons during January, and up to three at Hornsea Mere from 1st January to 7th May. Two at Stearsby near York remained until 4th May. Further inland, singles at Pugney's G.P. from 21st April to 3rd May; at Wheldrake Ings on 10th and 13th June, and at Mickletown Ings from 10th to 12th June. One at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough on 25th July.

Singles at Hornsea Mere from 13th October to 5th November; at Welton Water on 3rd November; at Fairburn Ings on 30th November, and at Hay-a-Park from 25th to 27th December. Seven at Chelker Res. on 12th November (DC, MH, JJ).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

As usual a large flock wintered in Bridlington Bay generally numbering about 250, but 720 on 29th January (SML) was the highest count. 180 south at Mappleton on 20th February and 120 north at Atwick on 9th March, may have been associated with this flock. 148 at Spurn on 13th February.

Elsewhere along the coast the first three-figure passage counts occurred in July, with 150 at Scalby Mills on 13th; 100 at Filey on 15th and 188 at Flamborough on 17th, when 138 were on the Humber at Spurn. Early autumn peaks at these sites of 198 at Filey on 1st August; 128 at Flamborough on 6th August, and 220 at Spurn on 30th September. The largest movements occurred on 12th November, with 678 at Flamborough and 179 at Filey. On 13th November, 123 at Filey; 330 at Flamborough and 150 at Spurn. Filey Brigg had a wintering flock of 350 in November, and 250 in December, when 140 were in Cayton Bay on 18th, and 181 on the Humber at Spurn on 16th.

Inland, occurred in every month except September. These were mostly records of one to three apart from 11 at Gouthwaite Res. on 8th June; 13 at Southfield Res. on 5th July; 44 on 22nd June and 34 on 9th July at Blackmoorfoot Res. On 12th November, the day of heaviest sea passage, 85 arrived at Castle Howard Lake from the south-west, 74 of them departing almost immediately. Scarcer than usual in V.C. 64.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Few coastal records in the early months. One at Filey from 8th to 16th January. At Flamborough three on 9th February, and one on 12th and 13th. At Spurn, two south on 13th February, and five south on 21st May, and four north on 27th April.

Five off Flamborough on 16th July. Only one to two on a few dates during August and September at Scarborough and Filey, with five off Flamborough on 29th September. More during October, including four at Spurn on 21st and 23rd; five at Flamborough, and nine at Filey on 29th. Singles at these sites during November, plus five on 12th and four on 26th at Filey, and two each at Withernsea on 14th and Barmston on 26th. One in Cornelian Bay on 4th December, and three south at Filey on 28th December.

Inland, one found dead at Tophill Low Res. on 28th January, and at Hornsea Mere two on 23rd April, and one on 19th November.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Over 200 at Hornsea Mere from mid March to the first week of April, with 290 on 3rd April (IJP). Also in the east at Tophill Low Res., 64 on 14th February and 65 on 14th April. The Lower Derwent had 26 during March, and small numbers were on many waters further inland, the highest counts being, 41 on 16th January and 60 on 3rd April at Fairburn Ings; 16 at Redmires Res. on 3rd January; 29 at Pugney's G.P. on 30th January; 24 at Gouthwaite Res. during February; 24 at Hay-a-Park during April; 23 at Wintersett Res. on 23rd February, and 18 at Bolton-on-Swale on 20th April.

Most had departed by 21st May, but singles noted on three waters during the summer months.

The return commenced in early October, and at the month end westerly movement at Blacktoft Sands totalled 49 on 29th and 30th, and 53 off Whitton Sands on 29th. By the latter date 59 were at Gouthwaite Res., and counts during November included 51 at Hornsea Mere on 5th; 36 at Fairburn Ings on 12th; 34 at Coniston Cold on 13th and 19 at Redmires Res. on 18th and 27th. In the last week in December, Pugney's G.P. had 20, Wintersett Res. 18, and 38 were at Tophill Low Res.

Usually scarce on the coast, but five at Scalby Mills on 2nd and 3rd January. Coastal passage heaviest in late October, with on 29th, 176 north at Filey and 59 north at Ravenscar, and on 30th, 33 south at Spurn. On 12th November 66 passed Flamborough, and 12 were in South Bay, Scarborough.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

A male on the Ingbirchworth reservoirs until 26th March, and from 14th November. A *redhead* south off Flamborough on 12th February (PAL, DIMW).

Single *redheads* at Fairburn Ings from 10th to 12th November, and another on 13th; over Blacktoft Sands on 14th November, and at Pugney's G.P. from 17th to 31st December. A male flew west at Fairburn Ings on 4th December, and one was at Welton Water for the last few days of the year.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Numbers of this species low at both coastal and inland sites, with none at all during February, and only a slight spring increase, including four at Bolton-on-Swale on 2nd May. No report of breeding although three were in the Ribble Valley from 14th March to 15th June.

Scarce again during the autumn months, with most of the inland records being of singles although three at Wath Ings on 8th October, and 15 flew west at Fairburn Ings on 21st November. No December records.

Against this background coastal movement at four localities was fairly regular from late September to mid November. On 1st October, nine south at Spurn; 16 at Flamborough, and ten at Filey. 12 south at Spurn on 28th October. On 29th October, 13 north and one south at Spurn; 33 at Flamborough; 11 at Filey, and two north at Ravenscar. A record count of 52 off Flamborough on 12th November, when Filey had 31, and Spurn seven. Five north at Withernsea on 18th November.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

At least 12 pairs bred in V.C. 64 on the Rivers Ribble, Wharfe, Skirfare and Ure. In V.C. 65 a female was with 22 young at Middleham Bridge on the Ure on 7th June, and another was with 12 young in Catterick Village on the Swale on 25th July, and pairs were at six other sites in April and May. 11 at Bolton-on-Swale on 31st July.

Coastal records were few, with five north-west at Atwick off the sea on 18th November being noteworthy.

Continued decline at Hornsea Mere, with birds on only two dates.

Many waters had small numbers, usually low single figures, up to May and from October. Higher maxima included during February, 111 at Eccup Res.; 48 at Leighton Res.; 53 at Bishop Monkton, and 27 at Fairburn Ings, and during March, 73 at Chelker Res. (1st), and 19 at Castle Howard Lake. December maxima of 86 at Eccup Res.; 63 at Leighton and Roundhill reservoirs; 53 at Bishop Monkton, and 29 at Fairburn Ings.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Bred successfully at Harewood Park, Mickletown Ings, Swillington Ings, Broomhill Flash and on the Lower Derwent, with seven pairs rearing 28 young.

In addition to the breeding sites 21 other localities had one to two on various dates, including one as far north as Bolton-on-Swale on 13th November. Higher counts of six at Fairburn Ings on 25th November; eight at Whiteholme Res. on 13th November, and 11 at Wintersett Res. on 19th September where birds were present regularly in the last four months, with up to eight during December.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

One at Bishop Wood near Selby on 9th May (DW). Two north over Atwick on 29th May (WFC). One found dead at Filey Brigg on 4th June (SC). One over a woodland in V.C. 64 on 6th August.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Addition to the 1982 Report: One south over Blacktoft Sands on 21st February.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

V.C. 61: Singles at Wheldrake on 6th and 19th April and two on 23rd. A male at Filey on 17th and 23rd April on which date singles at Spurn, Hornsea Mere, Nunkeeling and Flamborough (two). Another apparent influx on 7th and 8th May with singles at Spurn (two on 8th), Cherry Cob, Easington, Hornsea Mere and Filey. Further records between 20th and 22nd May at Spurn, Tophill Low Res. and Flamborough. A pair at one locality in the vice-county.

A male at Broomfleet on 3rd July. Singles in the Kilnsea and Spurn areas on 8th and 25th August and 5th September. One at Tophill Low Res. on 31st August and single *creamcrown*s in early September with three on 16th (CM). One at Crockey Hill near York on 7th September.

V.C. 62: One *creamcrown* north near Hutton-le-Hole on 12th May.

V.C. 63: At Blacktoft Sands an adult male arrived on 13th April and was joined on 6th May by a female, and display and nest building took place, but unfortunately they did not breed. This male left on 10th September and the female on 21st. A further 14 individuals passed through Blacktoft Sands in the spring, and four during the autumn. An adult male at Rivelin on 16th April and a *creamcrown* at Hatfield on 17th. Singles at Potteric Carr, Worsbrough and Wath Ings on 21st April, possibly all the same *creamcrown*. Singles at Pugney's G.P. on 22nd April and 3rd May. *Creamcrown*s at Thorpe Marsh and Thorne Moors on 9th May; Sprotbrough Flash on 3rd June; Potteric Carr on 16th June, and Thorne Moors on 2nd August.

V.C. 64: One at Mickletown Ings on 9th May.

Addition to the 1982 Report: A *creamcrown* at Ramsgill on 15th August, and one at Bingley on 13th February.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

V.C. 61: Frequent in both winters at Spurn and along the Humber to Sunk Island, with three there on 16th January and at Kilnsea on 21st December, otherwise usually singles. Up to five at Cowden Range in the early months, including three males on 16th January, the last on 26th April, and again from 23rd October with three by late December. One at Wheldrake Ings on 6th May. Recorded at nine other places.

V.C. 62: Regularly in Bransdale from early January to 15th March, and from late November, with three on 13th March and four on 30th November. One at Cloughton on

16th and three on 30th January. Two at Langdale on 2nd February, and at Baker's Warren, Wykeham during February. Singles at six other localities between 13th February and 20th March. One south at Long Nab on 9th May. One at Anchor Plain on 25th September and singles at three localities in December.

V.C. 63: Eight in the Blacktoft Sands roost up to late February; seven in early March; the last on 24th April, and a build up to six by 17th November. The Broomhead Moor roost had four in the early months; five in April, and the last on 5th May, with three returning by 25th October, and eight in late November. Thorne Moors had up to five to 22nd April and from 9th September. Up to four on Hatfield Moors at the year end. Singles at nine other localities in the winter months.

V.C. 64: Recorded at moorland sites up to 21st April and from 22nd October, with three at one locality. Singles at Timble on 19th and Mickletown Ings on 26th February; Fairburn Ings on 21st May and 2nd June; Bishop Monkton on 30th October and Kirby Malzeard on 10th December. Two at Timble on 29th November.

V.C. 65: Leighton Res. had a *ringtail* on 28th March and a male on 13th November.

A pair probably bred at one site, and a pair were present at another site.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Single females at Burstwick on 24th April (SM), and in the Kilnsea and Spurn areas on 13th May (PIH *et al*). Single males south at Spurn on 24th April, and near Atwick on 27th May (WFC).

A male at a locality in V.C. 63 from early May to early June.

A pair bred in the county and reared three young.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

As in 1982 bred, or possibly bred at sites in four of the vice-counties. One pair known to have reared three young.

Away from the breeding areas singles at Wheldrake Ings on 12th January (TMC); Elvington on 14th February (TJB); in March, at Flamborough on 5th (PAL *et al*), Atwick on 11th (WFC), and Fairburn Ings on 12th (KD, RD); Pugney's G. P. on 23rd April (MB *et al*); Anchor Plain on 7th August (EBB *et al*); Newburgh on 27th September (JP); Lundwood on 7th October (JL), Everingham on 25th October and Flamborough on 12th November (DIMW).

Additions to the 1982 Report: Singles over Harrogate on 19th May (JEA), and at Spurn on 31st October (JED).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Evidence of a further steady increase in numbers now reported from all parts of the county.

Up to four at several localities during the winter months.

Five flying together at Storwood near York on 9th February. Nine flew south-east over Fairburn Ings on 16th April. Six at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 14th September. Four at Spurn on 1st October.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Over 50 records, of which 30 were in the first five months, and 20 in the last five. These came from all parts of the county, with an emphasis on the Dales where there were also two sightings of two during the summer.

Two south over Filey on 7th April, and two over Wharncliffe on 26th September.

A very dark bird first seen at Spurn at the end of 1982, was at Kilnsea and Spurn between 27th February and 19th March, and probably also at Hornsea on 6th February. One at Cloughton in late 1982 remained until 5th April.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Two in the North Cliffe and South Cliffe area up to 4th March (HOB).

One at Bransdale on 8th January (MHR), and 5th February (MF *et al*), with a second one on 30th January (GED).

Upper Nidderdale and Colsterdale had one on 8th and 9th January, and 4th February, and from 5th to 20th March, with a second one on 15th and 16th March (many observers).

One near Upper Barden Reservoir on 22nd February (PMW).

One south at Atwick on 30th March (WFC).

The only record late in the year was one at Bransdale on 26th December (MHR).

Additions to the 1982 Report: One at Scar House, Nidderdale on 7th October (JEA).

One found recently dead at Collingham on 15th October.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Several sightings of an immature in Upper Nidderdale between 1st January and 5th February; on 26th and 27th March; 5th and 29th April, and probably the same bird at another locality on 30th April and 25th May.

One near Gouthwaite Res. on 30th December (PJC *et al*).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

One south-west over Sprotbrough on 28th March (AR). Singles at Fairburn Ings on 1st and 23rd April, and 25th June (GRW, HJW *et al*). One at Gouthwaite Res. on 15th April. Singles at Burstwick from 1st to 8th May (SM); over Colden, Hebden Bridge on 12th May (KS), and at Wheldrake Ings on 18th and from 24th to 27th May (CJ, HOB). One over Thorne Moors on 5th July (CF).

One in the River Hull and Tophill Low Res. area on 21st August (RAR, FN).

Singles at Castle Howard from 3rd to 5th September, and at Scotton Banks on 6th.

Addition to the 1982 Report: One at Elvington on 12th April.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

An adult male watched closely for several minutes at Atwick on 14th June eventually flew north (WFC).

Under consideration by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Successful breeding season reported from many localities throughout the county.

The most marked coastal passage was noted at Spurn, with 182 in October, including 31 on 11th, and 29 on 19th.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

A first-summer male near Sledmere on 8th June (Miss EL).

An adult female first seen on 2nd September (DS, BA) near Ingbirchworth was relocated on 18th September (JB *et al*), and remained in the area until 2nd October.

Accepted by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

V.C. 61: Singles at over 30 localities up to early May, and from early August, with two occasionally in the Spurn area where light southerly passage in autumn totalled 16.

V.C. 62: Records of singles from six localities in the early months, and two in the late months.

V.C. 63: Singles at 16 localities up to May, with two each at Thorpe Marsh and Dunscroft. After one at Wath Ings on 29th July, recorded at 20 localities, with two each at Thrybergh Res. (14th October), Wath Ings (11th December), and Hatfield Moor in November and December.

Up to three early in the year, and five late in the year on Thorne Moors.

V.C. 64: Unlike the above vice-counties was scarcer than in recent years outside the breeding season.

Over 30 pairs bred in the county.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

V.C. 61: Singles at Tophill Low Res. on 30th April (IF), Burstwick on 9th (SM), and Cowden on 26th May (WFC). One at Hornsea Mere on 27th June and 7th July (GRB). Singles at Spurn on 10th July (north-west), and 5th September (south). One at North Duffield on 26th July (TED). Singles at Flamborough on 26th and 29th August, and 22nd October (AMA, DGH, PAL). One south at Sammy's Point and Spurn on 1st October (JED *et al.*).

V.C. 63: Singles at Newington on 5th and Thrybergh on 7th May (SHH). Singles at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd May, 9th June, 2nd, 6th and 14th July and 25th August (AG). One at Wath Ings on 6th and Broomhill Flash on 11th July (JH, GJS *et al.*), and one on Thorne Moors on 16th July (GF). One at Thorpe Marsh on 28th July and 6th August. One at Sprotbrough Flash on 10th October (CGJ).

V.C. 64: One at Malham Tarn on 2nd June (EJ). One at Fairburn Ings on 15th, 18th, 19th and 25th June (BB, CW *et al.*). Singles at Ripley on 16th, and Farnham on 28th June; on Pockstones Moor on 11th July (CGV), and Gouthwaite Res. on 17th (KM), and at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 16th August (JRM, PTT).

A pair at one locality in the county with three young in late July.

Additions to the 1982 Report: Singles at Thrybergh on 7th May and at Mexborough on 27th September (JL).

Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus*

A grey phase at Flamborough on 22nd January (PAL).

Not yet submitted to *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

One in the Spurn, Kilnsea and Easington areas on various dates from 15th September to mid October and again on 18th December proved elusive, but the best views were obtained on 24th and 25th September (KR, BF, RHA).

Under consideration by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

V.C. 61: Singles at Filey, Flamborough (three dates), Bempton and Atwick in the early months, and one at Filey on 6th June. More frequent from late August onwards, with sightings on more than one date at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge; in the Hornsea and Bewholme areas; at Filey (six dates), and at Flamborough (eight dates), and one at North Duffield on 8th October.

V.C. 62: Singles at Scarborough on 29th January, and Long Nab on 6th February.

In the autumn singles at Scalby Mills on 13th October and 19th November; Rudston on 16th October; Ravenscar on 29th October, and Long Nab on 6th November.

V.C. 63: Singles at Middleton on 5th March and Blackmoorfoot on 8th April, and later in the year, at Blacktoft Sands on 31st August; Elland G.P. on 16th, and Bentley Common on 30th October; on Hatfield Moors on 13th and 20th November, and Thorne Moors on 27th November.

Delete from 1982 Report: Singles . . . : at Thrybergh on 7th; and Mexborough on 27th September.

V.C. 64: One at Fountains Abbey on 7th January. Singles at Fairburn Ings on 5th March, 30th October and 8th November, and at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 23rd April and 27th August. One at Eccup Res. on 15th and 18th September, and one over Meanwood, Leeds on 11th November.

Several pairs attempted to breed in the county, but not all of them were successful.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

No direct statistical evidence available, but observers of the southern moorlands gained an impression of reduced numbers. A poor year on several of the moorlands of the

Central Pennines, although estates in the Harrogate recording area bagged 1,736 brace in the first ten days of shooting. Further north a poor breeding season was attributed to the wet spring, and on Hall Moor, Swaledale, many dead diseased birds found on 31st May.

Over 70 on Lawkland Fell on 20th November.

An unusual occurrence of one on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 4th May.

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

Small numbers recorded in West Stonesdale, East Stonesdale, High Abbotside, Witton Moor and Feldom Ranges.

Regularly observed at Green Field in Langstrothdale, where two leks held 12 males on 20th May, with a total of 20 birds in the area (GTF). Three nests found in moors above Nidderdale in the summer.

Elsewhere in V.C. 64, two males in February and one on 27th April, at Malham Tarn Moss; single males at Braiside on 13th April, and at Wild Share on 21st May. Up to five (four males) near Rams Gill from 19th November, and three females on Hunter Bark near Settle on 25th December.

Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus*

An adult male at Burstwick on 31st August and 2nd September was almost certainly an escape from a nearby farm (SM).

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Coveys of 17 at Hagg Bridge on 18th January and at Fairburn Ings on 14th February were the largest before the autumn.

One at Tan Hill, over 1,600 feet above sea level, on 10th June.

23 at Ingbirchworth on 27th September. During October, 31 at Thrybergh Res. on 10th, and 21 at Parlington Park. In November, 78 at Lotherton Hall early in the month; 25 at Strensall Common on 13th; 29 at Wath Ings on 5th, and 26 at Ellerton on 24th. 20 at Grewelthorpe on 20th December. 25 to 30 at Wilsic, Bentley Common and Hatfield Moors, during the last three months.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

The decline continues in the York area, with breeding confirmed at only four localities. Three well-watched areas, Fairburn Ings, the Harewood to Otley stretch of Wharfedale, and the Settle area all had lower numbers than in 1982. Some decrease in the Doncaster area.

The following were the largest coveys reported: 20 at Elland G.P. on 18th, and 27 at Wadworth Wood on 23rd September; 23 at Burstwick on 2nd and at Fairburn Ings on 15th, 54 at Thrybergh Res. on 18th, 30 at Tophill Low Res. on 23rd and 27 at Mickletown Ings on 25th October; 48 on Eccup Moor on 2nd November, and 22 in the Wath Ings area in December.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

First one on Hatfield Moors on 5th and 6th May. Two at Flamborough on 21st May, and one to two from 17th to 25th June. Singles at Spurn on 1st and 2nd June. Up to three at Hagg Bridge, east of York, from 3rd June to 22nd September.

Widespread records of singles during June and early July, were at Wykeham, Scalby, Osgodby, East Keswick, Pool Meadows, Hutton Conyers, Haverah Park, Carlton (Barnsley) and Pugney's G.P., and in late July at Cayton Carr and north of Beverley.

At Wintersett Res. one on 20th June, three on 24th, two to 26th, and one to 1st July. Three calling at Sawdon near Scarborough from 1st to 4th July, and two on 13th.

Up to seven calling near the River Ouse below Cawood through the breeding season.

Breeding proved in the York area of two pairs; one with seven young near Wheldrake on 21st August (two calling from 16th July), and one with four young at Holtby on 25th August.

Four at Flamborough on 20th August, and five on 21st.

One at Bielby on 27th August, and one shot at Storwood on 6th September.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Status apparently unchanged.

High numbers at Wentworth Park, with 100 on 13th March; 120 on 25th October, and over 100 on 13th November.

Two all white birds at Charm Park, Ayton on 13th March, and one at Ruston Carr on 27th December.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

One to three at about 25 localities in the early months, and at about 30 in the last four months.

Three pairs possibly bred at Potteric Carr, and a male was singing at Blacktoft Sands on 3rd June, but there was no other indication of breeding there. May have bred at Hornsea Mere. Bred at Fulford Ings, and on the Pocklington Canal, where an adult was with five young on 21st July (TJB). Two pairs thought to have bred at Fairburn Ings.

Four at Sprotbrough Flash in February, and up to six in the last two months. Four at Tophill Low Res. in October and at Worsbrough on 23rd November.

Fairburn Ings had four in January, and an influx commencing in early October brought numbers up to about 30 by mid November, with seven still present in late December.

15 at Blacktoft Sands on 5th November, and ten there in October and December.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

One at Fairburn Ings on 7th August (IL, GT *et al*). An immature at Naburn S.W. from 12th to 20th September (JG *et al*). One at Tophill Low Res. from 2nd to 4th October.

Cornerake *Crex crex*

Singles at Spurn on 9th May, 14th, 25th and 27th August, and 17th September.

One calling at night at Blacktoft Sands from 25th April to 2nd May (AG). One calling at a site near York in mid May. Four calling near Pickering on 24th May (RNH), and one there on 21st (MHR), and 26th (PJD). Two at Clayton, Bradford on 21st June (GHF), one at Castle Hills, Doncaster from 1st to 4th July (AGM); and one at Wilsic on 16th September (KR).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

A decline in the Dales area in V.C. 64 due to predation by Mink, *Mustela vison*. A decline from 25 to 15 pairs breeding at Blacktoft Sands. Numbers in the Harrogate area still down following severe weather in early 1982. Elsewhere status apparently unchanged.

Maximum counts included, 50 at Sprotbrough Flash, 80 at Wentworth Park and 82 at Horbury Wyke in January; 52 at Dewsbury S.F. and 40 at Elvington in February; 41 at Anchor Plain on 5th June; 180 in the Wath and Broomhill area in July; 51 at Mickletown Ings on 27th September; 125 at Fairburn Ings on 2nd October, and 45 by Dalby Beck, Ellerburn and 62 at High Royd S.F. in December.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Most of the large concentrations were at lowland waters in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64. Those with maxima of 100 to 400 were Old Denaby, Potteric Carr, Wentworth, Pugney's G.P., Mickletown Ings and Harewood Park. Higher counts of 512 on 14th January, and 941 on 14th December at Wintersett Res.; 440 at Pugney's G.P. on 3rd December; 498 in February, and 516 in December at Hay-a-Park, and at Fairburn Ings 882 on 25th September, but only 360 by December.

Hornsea Mere had higher numbers than previously, with 2,300 on 16th January, and 2,150 on 16th December.

The only other waters with peaks of over 100 were Wheldrake Ings and Tophill Low Res., and Bolton-on-Swale with 300 on 18th December. 51 at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough on 18th January.

80 pairs bred in the Lower Derwent area.

Crane *Grus grus*

One flew north over Ellerton on 12th April (TJB).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Breeding in five localities in V.C. 65; along the Wharfe and Ribble in V.C. 64; at least nine pairs in the Derwent and Pocklington Canal area; at Cherry Cob, Kilnsea and Lissett. Present in the breeding season at Tophill Low Res., Wharfe Ings and Butterwick on the River Rye.

Small numbers recorded at inland sites in every month, with the return to breeding areas during March. 27 at Nosterfield on 5th; 56 at Kilnsey on 19th March, and 45 at Rathmell on 3rd April.

Inland passage during the autumn very much in evidence over Blacktoft Sands, with 769 west between 6th July and 9th September, including 261 on 2nd August.

As in 1982 coastal and estuary numbers were not exceptional. Cornelian Bay had 520 on 8th January, and over 100 in June and July. The Humber Estuary had 1,917 on 23rd January and 1,711 on 2nd October, with a large proportion on each date being at Spurn, where the maxima of the winters were 1,650 on 19th January, and 1,750 on 3rd December.

Southerly coastal passage was high during August, with at Filey 202 on 6th, and 366 on 7th; at Flamborough 298 on 6th, and 648 on 13th; and at Spurn 1,350 on 24th, where 239 left to the north-east on 7th.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

A pair at Blacktoft Sands on 12th May, were displaying and mating (AG).

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Avocet *Recurvirostra recurvirostra*

One flew south from Easington Lagoons on 25th April (PIH, CAM). One at Mickletown Ings on 16th and 21st May (BT), and at Fairburn Ings on 17th (CW). One departed north from Cherry Cob on 22nd May (SML). Four north-west over Thrybergh Res. on 30th May (MAS).

An immature flew east over Ardsley Res. on 19th August to Mickletown Ings where it remained until 23rd August (JM, BT). An adult at Fairburn Ings on 25th August (GT), and one at Catwick G.P. on 23rd (EWC).

One on the Humber at Spurn on 13th November.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Two at Treeton Dyke on 15th March; singles at Elsecar Res. on 17th and Fairburn Ings on 24th, and at five more localities by the month end. A pair at Seamer G.P. on 1st April, with a steady influx into the county throughout that month.

The approximate number of breeding pairs, which in a moderate season were not all successful, were six in V.C. 61; one in V.C. 62; 20 in V.C. 63; 15 in V.C. 64 and two in V.C. 65.

Double figure counts in July at seven localities in V.C.s 63 and 64, the highest being 32 in the Wath Ings and Broomhill Flash area on 24th.

Late individuals at Mickletown Ings on 17th, Wath Ings on 24th, and Blacktoft Sands on 30th September.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Coastal counts were moderate, the highest being in the Wilsthorpe to Fraisthorpe area, with 75 on 7th January and 95 on 21st December. 75 at Flamborough in mid February and 87 on 3rd December, and 20 at Scalby Mills on 13th November.

Higher numbers wintering along the Humber at the year end than in 1982, with 440 on 2nd October and 270 on 27th November.

It was on the lower Humber that spring passage was most pronounced, with 570 on 15th May, and 560 a week later when 120 were at Whitton Sands. Those showing the

characteristics of the Arctic race, *C.h. tundrae*, numbered 25 on 28th May at Spurn, and 139 at Cherry Cob on 8th.

Maxima at inland sites of 41 at Blacktoft Sands on 16th May; 22 at Mickletown Ings on 30th, and 14 at Nosterfield on 31st.

Bred at two and probably bred at four sites in V.C. 61; at two sites in V.C. 63, and at one in V.C. 64, with pairs at four others during the breeding season.

Autumn passage widespread, with 21 at Blacktoft Sands on 15th July; 38 west over Pugney's G.P. on 16th August; 24 at Wath Ings, 19 at Dewsbury S.F., and 33 at Gouthwaite Res. on 17th; 18 at Nosterfield on 22nd, and 63 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 26th August.

One to two appeared at a few inland sites in the first two months, and the last two months.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

A female at Kirk Sandall on 4th May (PHM), and a male at Blacktoft Sands on 12th (AG).

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

The first were nine at Church Fenton on 6th May (DW), forerunners of a good passage during that month, with six at Ravenscar on 9th (ABD), and two on 10th (PJD), when one flew over Blacktoft Sands (AG). Ten at Flamborough on 14th May (JCL); seven north over Atwick (WFC), and one at Spurn on 20th, and one on Great Shunner Fell on 30th. One north-west over Spurn on 9th June.

One on Coniston Moor on 18th August, and singles at Broomhill Flash from 12th to 18th September (JMT, JL, JES), and at Wath Ings on 1st and 2nd October (SR, NS et al).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

V.C. 61: The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had 2,000 during January, and 2,450 were on the Humber near Stone Creek on 16th. 2,200 in the Lower Derwent valley on 3rd January, which declined to 500 by late February, and following a big influx reached 3,800 by 20th March then declined rapidly to 450 on 2nd April, to be followed by an influx of Northern birds, *P.a. albifrons*, peaking at 1,500 on 17th April.

In the autumn numbers fluctuated greatly at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge; after 2,900 during September and 6,000 on 2nd October, despite several peaks of over 2,000 numbers were regularly below 1,000, with 3,250 on 18th December as the year-end maximum. 3,040 on the Lower Humber on 18th December, and 2,000 at Atwick Gap at the year-end. 1,000 in the Lower Derwent during December, and up to 800 at several other localities. 1,300 at Cawood near Howden on 17th September.

V.C. 62: Up to 200 at several localities in the Vale of Pickering in the winter months, and 900 at Flixton Carrs on 28th November, and 700 at Allerston on 3rd December.

Flocks of about 250 each at Allerston and Yedington in late June.

Breeding pairs common and well distributed on the moorlands.

V.C. 63: The largest winter flocks were 1,660 at Thurcroft on 2nd January, 1,200 at Loversall Carr on 22nd, and 1,000 at Pugney's G.P. also in January, and 2,680 at Wadsworth on 6th February. Autumn and year-end maxima of 1,000 each at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd October, and at Wath in November and December, and 2,000 at Carlton on 22nd December.

Largest flocks of the Northern race, *P.a. albifrons*, during the spring were 355 at Ringstone Edge on 17th April, and 700 at Whitley Common, Ingbarwickworth on 22nd.

Breeding numbers on the moorlands apparently normal.

V.C. 64: No really large flocks in the early months although 500 of the Northern race, *P.a. albifrons*, at Haverah Park on 27th March.

35 pairs bred on Embsay Moor, and bred widely elsewhere on the Pennines.

Up to 1,000 at Pool Meadows in late October and November; 930 at Thorner Lane End near Leeds on 4th November; 2,000 in the Penny Pot Lane area west of Harrogate in

November and December, and 2,300 at Fairburn Ings on 24th December. 2,000 at Acaster Malbis on 31st December.

V.C. 65: 447 at Nosterfield on 29th January, and 525 at Bolton-on-Swale on 8th October.

Birds in territory on Preston Moor by 4th March. Widespread reports of breeding on the Pennines above Wensleydale and Swaledale, but suspicion of a poor season expressed by observers.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Coastal numbers were very low, with maxima during October of 19 at Barmston on 2nd, and six at Burniston Bay on 18th. Maxima at Spurn of 28 on 23rd March and 40 on 2nd October, and 35 at Easington Lagoons on 26th October.

The Cherry Cob to Sunk Island section of the Humber shore as usual held high numbers, with 149 on 9th January; 200 on 13th March (BS & SP); 250 on 8th and 830 on 15th May; 236 on 2nd October, and 190 on 6th November, but few later (SML). 20 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 3rd May, and 46 on 26th October.

Inland records were few in the early months, with none before 8th March, but more frequent in the autumn and winter, with records from 17 localities usually of one or two. A slight passage during May including three at Church Fenton on 6th. Three at Mickletown Ings on 11th October and at Rathmell on 15th. Seven at Tophill Low Res. on 13th November, and three west at Fairburn Ings on 15th December.

Regular occurrences at Blacktoft Sands, with 12 on 27th September, 59 on 10th and 62 on 24th October, and 42 on 4th November. 14 west on 17th October over the reserve.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

V.C. 61: Large numbers near the coast, the Humber Estuary, and in the Lower Derwent in both winters. 3,000 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge in January, and 4,500 on 23rd November, being the highest count at the year end (TED). The Lower Derwent had 3,000 regularly from January and 3,550 on 13th March, before dispersal in April, then 1,320 on 27th November, and 2,927 on 18th December. 2,500 at Melbourne on 21st July. Over 1,000 occasionally at Stone Creek, Whitton Sands and Hollym Carrs.

V.C. 62: 800 on Scalby Mills rocks on 23rd December.

V.C. 63: Flocks of over 1,000 at Harthill, Wath and Beighton in January, and 1,500 at Carlton, Barnsley on 2nd February. Autumn maxima of 2,000 in the Wath and Broomhill area on 5th November; 2,250 at Harthill on 20th November; and on 27th December, 3,000 between Dunsdale and Sykehouse near Doncaster, and 2,500 at Blacktoft Sands. Autumn to winter peaks of over 1,000 also at Blackmoorfoot Res., Pugney's G.P., Aldwarke, Carlton, and Thorne Moors.

V.C. 64: Over 1,000 at Acaster Malbis in January; Gouthwaite Res. in July and Pool Meadows in October. 2,000 in the Ribble Valley on 21st September, and 2,500 at Fairburn Ings on 24th December.

V.C. 65: Nosterfield G.P. area had 2,000 in January, August and November, and a similar number were at Catterick on 19th November.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Few along the coast apart from some evidence of southerly passage. Most of these during August, with 39 off Scarborough on 20th, and 171 on 27th and 52 on 31st off Filey. Spurn, however, had a wider spread of dates, with 58 on 24th July; 245 on 16th August; 53 on 10th September and 148 on 30th October, as monthly maxima. 48 in off the sea at Spurn on 16th August.

The Humber estuary counts gave 13,005 on 23rd January; 8,395 on 6th February; 4,285 on 2nd October; 25,000 on 27th November, and 10,430 on 18th December. On each date more than half were at Patrington Haven including 8,000 in January, and 21,000 in November.

Inland, three west over Knotford Nook on 1st January; three south at Aughton on 13th March; three north over Pugney's G.P. on 22nd, and 15 north-west from Wheldrake Ings

on 13th April, otherwise three singles, including one at Mickletown Ings on 30th May. During the autumn 18 reports of singles between 7th August and 18th November, of which 14 were in V.C. 63, plus six west on 26th August, and nine west on 18th September, at Blacktoft Sands, and two at Fairburn Ings on 18th November.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Occurred regularly in Jackson's Bay in the early months, with 30 on 23rd January and 50 on 13th March, but as usual Bridlington Bay was the winter stronghold, with 88 on 29th January; 420 on 26th February; 230 on 4th March and 185 at the year-end (SML, JCL). Up to 93 in Filey Bay in the early months, and 46 at the year-end.

At Withernsea 76 moved south on 27th February, and at Spurn autumn passage peaked with 166 on 16th August. Few on the Humber away from Spurn which had birds in all months, with the maximum of 117 on 10th August.

Inland records were few, with 12 between 4th March and 30th May and five between 29th July and 18th September, all of singles apart from two at Mickletown Ings on 23rd April, and three at Pugney's G.P. on 30th May.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

The only spring occurrences were two each at Spurn on 2nd May, and at Blacktoft Sands from 29th May to 1st June.

An excellent autumn, with the first at Blacktoft Sands on 17th July, and singles at three other sites in July. One to three at five places during August, plus five at Redmires Res. from 26th August to 1st September. Small numbers at Spurn and Burstwick before an obvious influx from 10th to 14th September.

One to three at 30 sites following the influx, with some remaining until 5th October. Higher numbers included, ten on 10th, 17 on 12th and nine on 13th September at Flamborough; six and seven at two Scarborough flash ponds on 12th September; 14 at Nosterfield G.P. on 16th and nine at Barmston on 17th September; nine at Blacktoft Sands on 5th October, and at Mickletown Ings, 11 on 14th and 21st, and 16 on 15th September.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Singles, at Blacktoft Sands from 16th to 19th May (AG), and at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 3rd November (TED).

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

One at Blacktoft Sands from 10th to 14th July (AG *et al.*). Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee. One at a sewage plant at Melbourne near Pocklington on 26th September (TJB, TED). Sixth and seventh records for the county.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

One at Nosterfield G.P. on 22nd July (SW, TS, CS) and one at Spurn on 3rd October (CAD, NT).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

One at Flamborough on 9th September (PAL, AS). The second record for the county. Not yet submitted to *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Singles at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd, Tophill Low Res. on 26th and Spurn on 27th July. Three at Nosterfield G.P. on 15th August, and three south at Spurn on 24th August.

Regularly at Blacktoft Sands from late July until 19th October, with peaks of 13 on 28th July and 5th October, and 12 on 26th September.

A few at Spurn early in September then one to three at 15 localities, mainly from the 11th onwards, with individuals at six localities in early October. Higher numbers: four at Filey on 12th September; six south-west at Wath Ings on 11th; six in from the north-east at

Spurn on 22nd; five at Nosterfield G.P. on 24th; four at Fairburn Ings on 26th and 27th September, and nine along the Humber between Sunk Island and Paull on 2nd October.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

A single at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge and at Blacktoft Sands on 28th October, was the only one away from the usual coastal haunts.

Jackson's Bay, Scarborough had 40 on 2nd January (AJW) and 320 were in Cornelian Bay on 8th (SML), and 21 in North Bay, Scarborough on 26th. Filey Brigg had 30 during the early months, but high tide peaks of 200 on 30th January; 500 on 1st March; up to 430 in the first week of April, down to the last, four on 30th May. Flamborough Head had 53 on 3rd January; 60 on 20th February; 70 on 6th March and 38 on 2nd May.

One had returned to Filey Brigg on 3rd July, and 30 were there by the month end, and 40 by the end of August, with 109 in October as the highest count in the latter half of the year. 17 at Flamborough on 23rd October, with a few more there until December and a peak of 60 on 26th.

Small numbers at other coastal sites during the last three months.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

The Humber Estuary counts totalled 18,853 on 23rd January; 8,066 on 6th February, and 10,146 on 2nd October (per DBC). Outside these counts, 2,400 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 2nd, and 3,500 at Spurn Point on 13th February; 4,500 each at Cherry Cob on 8th and Sunk Island on 15th May; 2,000 at Spurn Point on 28th September, and 2,150 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 27th November (TED).

474 south at Spurn on 30th October.

The Lower Derwent floods had 375 on 3rd January, and 354 on 18th December, and an unprecedented 900 at North Duffield Ings on 26th December. Blacktoft Sands maxima of 140 in March; 550 in September, and 1,100 on 8th October.

Tophill Low Res. had 40 on 17th March, but spring passage inland was moderate, with double figures at only six localities, apart from those above.

The only proved breeding was on the moorlands of the Southern Pennines, and the Northern Dales.

At least 12 localities had maxima of 17 or more during the autumn, including 25 west at Wintersett Res. on 11th September; 27 at Fairburn Ings on 25th September; 25 at Long Preston on 25th October, and 22 each at Nosterfield G.P. in July, and at Mickletown Ings on 11th October.

On 30th October, a day of strong westerlies, 46 at Wath; 35 at Fairburn; 17 at Thrybergh Res.; 36 at Blackmoorfoot Res., and nine at Oakes and Lindley Moor, Huddersfield, moved west into the gale.

60 at Went Ings on 21st December.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Very low numbers in the early months. 12 at Stone Creek on 16th January, and four in the Lower Derwent area on 29th. 17 returned to the Lower Derwent on 7th March, and 40 were there by mid April, after which lekking occurred at two sites. Few other spring records, mainly singles, apart from seven at Blacktoft Sands on 16th April. One summered at Nosterfield G.P.

From one to nine at 34 localities from late July to early October. Higher numbers during August of 28 at Weighton Lock on 7th, and 47 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 25th and 26th August, and 96 there on 8th September, down to 17 by 27th. During September, 13 over Wintersett Res. on 2nd; 12 at Wath Ings on 11th; 11 at Flamborough on 14th and ten at Mickletown Ings on 17th. Tophill Low Res. had 18 on 20th September, increasing to 33 by 4th October, then down to 21 by 11th and fewer thereafter.

Along the Humber 46 between Patrington and Stone Creek on 2nd October, and 52 between Faxfleet and Goole on 9th.

In addition to the above Blacktoft Sands had high numbers for four months, with ten on 23rd June; 30 on 9th and 52 on 23rd July; up to 35 in August; 110 on 10th and 115 on 24th September; 52 on 9th October and 17 on 1st November.

Small numbers (up to four) at six localities during December, with 13 on the Lower Derwent on 18th.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocryptes minimus*

Noted at 33 localities in the early months, and although most had gone by April singles were at four places during the last week of the month, and one was at Blacktoft Sands on 1st May. These were mainly singles but occasionally up to three, and four at Wheldrake Ings on 23rd January.

Isolated singles on 26th and 29th August at Fairburn Ings and Lofthouse, respectively.

A steady arrival from 15th September, with one to three at 37 localities up to the year-end. Six at Fairburn Ings on 27th October; four in the Wath Ings area on 20th November, and ten at South Kirkby in early December (JF).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Over 50 at only four sites before late March, 100 at Pugney's G.P. in January being the largest concentration. An influx in the Lower Derwent in spring, with 180 at Wheldrake Ings on 27th March, and 200 at Aughton Ings on 6th April.

The York area had larger numbers of displaying birds than usual, particularly in the Lower Derwent following the wet spring, where, however, the success rate was quite low. Ten sites had autumn maxima between 50 and 100, and Fairburn Ings had 205 on 7th August, and 200 on 5th November; Wath Ings had 180 on 15th August, 150 on 25th November, and generally over 100 during this period, and into December; Gouthwaite Res. 137 on 27th August, and Harrogate S.F. 150 on 1st September.

Breeding situation apparently normal at moorland sites throughout the county.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

One at Muston Crossing Flash near Filey on 2nd August (MF, HJW *et al.*).

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

From the records received small numbers present throughout the county outside the breeding season.

More records than usual were received of roding birds indicating the presence of the species at a good percentage of suitable woodlands. Breeding proved near Market Weighton where several nests were found, and at five sites near York. Eight pairs estimated at Wilsic near Doncaster, and five at Wykham near Scarborough.

An influx in November, with 35 at Flamborough on 11th, and on the 12th, 26 at Flamborough; 14 at Spurn and eight at Filey.

Five at Poppleton near York on 26th December.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

V.C. 61: On the Lower Humber Estuary four on 9th January; seven on 13th March; five on 24th April and three on 8th May, and at least ten on 18th December. The Lower Derwent had singles on 18th and 28th March, with birds regularly from 4th to 25th April (15 on 21st), and one on 4th and two on 22nd May, then singles on 3rd and 21st June, and two on 18th. One to four passage birds at eight localities including Spurn Point, where five flew south over the Humber on 24th September.

V.C. 63: Singles at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 21st April, and in the Wath Ings and Broomhill area on 18th and 19th May, 5th June and 19th September, two on 11th August and one to 15th August. One to two at Blacktoft Sands from 20th April to 25th June, and 13th July to 4th October, but also 47 on 22nd April; 14 east on 30th July, and five on 30th September.

V.C. 64: Fairburn Ings had one to three on five dates from 8th to 22nd April; one from 18th to 25th August, with a second on 24th. At Staveley one on 16th April, and 18 on 15th July. One at Chelker Res. on 20th September.

V.C. 65: Nosterfield G.P. had five on 16th and one on 30th August.

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

One in full summer plumage at Blacktoft Sands from 26th April to 6th May (AG *et al.*). The second record for the county.

Accepted by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Most coastal records were of low single figures apart from 62 north at Filey Brigg on 10th September, and 58 south there the following day.

Cherry Cob again held the majority of the birds on the Humber Estuary, with 550 on 9th January; 300 on 13th February; 400 on 13th March; 270 on 24th April; 101 on 8th May; 200 on 4th September; 152 on 2nd October, and 339 on 18th December (SML, BS & SP). 36 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 2nd and 3rd October. 100 flying down the Humber at Spurn on a spring tide on 5th November.

Some westerly movement over the upper Humber in the autumn over Faxfleet and Blacktoft Sands, with 19 on 4th and 14 on 8th July, and eight on 20th October, with single figures on several other dates. 19 flew west over Blacktoft Sands on 11th May, and 21 were there on 27th September and 15 on 8th October.

Further inland, and away from the Humber, one to two at 12 localities between March and October.

25 north at Wheldrake Ings on 14th March; 13 at Bolton-on-Swale on 2nd April; 17 south at Southfield Res. on 5th May; 12 at Fairburn Ings on 12th July; 12 at Tophill Low Res. on 9th September, and 18 west over Wath Ings on 11th; four west at Redmires Res. on 30th October, and 48 west over Fairburn Ings on 11th November.

Whimbrel *Numenius lapponicus*

Early singles at Storwood near York on 26th March, and Filey Brigg on 30th, and at Long Nab, Burniston on 1st April.

A moderate spring passage on the coast including 15 south-west over Kilnsea on 23rd April; 15 north over Atwick on 28th, and 28 north-east over Spurn Point on 10th May.

Inland, a good passage over the River Derwent and the Pocklington Canal, with 15 on 24th and 22 on 27th April; on 22nd April, seven over Knaresborough Ringing Station and 26 at Fairburn Ings; and at Blacktoft Sands 23 west on 21st and ten west on 28th April. Nine west at Southfield Res. on 5th May. With one to three at many other localities in April and May, a good spring passage was indicated.

Recorded inland at about 25 localities in the autumn up to mid September, with usually no more than four. 16 at Knotford Nook on 8th July; nine west at Ringstone Edge Res. on 16th August; 59 west at Blacktoft Sands between 21st June and 8th September.

Southerly passage on the coast of five at Scarborough on 24th and 29th July, and ten on 26th August; 19 at Flamborough on 2nd August; 33 on 30th July, 28 on 14th August and 116 on 7th August at Filey, and 17 on 1st August at Spurn.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

The Humber Estuary counts gave 749 on 23rd January; 635 on 6th February; 1,675 on 4th September; 2,650 on 2nd October, and 905 on 27th November (DBC). Additional counts in the Cherry Cob to Stone Creek area of 460 on 13th March, 130 on 22nd May (SML), and 900 on 4th September (BS & SP).

Light coastal passage, with highest numbers passing Filey of 81 on 2nd and 98 on 5th July.

Winter maxima at Bolton-on-Swale of 88 on 16th January, and 112 on 18th December.

Return passage peaked as usual in March and early April with 30 to 60 at six localities, with 108 on Eccup Moor on 6th March; 120 in the Lower Derwent area on 20th; 400 at Rathmell on 22nd March, and 150 at Austwick Moss on 4th April.

Widespread breeding reports from the North York Moors, throughout the Pennines, and in many lowland localities, particularly in the York area. 56 pairs on the Lower Derwent and Pocklington Canal areas. 36 pairs bred on Embsay Moor.

Regular westerly movement at Blacktoft Sands from June to September, with a peak of 193 on 29th June.

Post breeding season flocks in July of 80 at Cockett Moss on 3rd; 110 at Penny Pot, Harrogate on 9th and 178 at Denton Moor on 26th.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

The first at Fairburn Ings on 16th March where one or two remained to 25th April. One to three at ten localities during April, and four in May.

During the autumn one to three at 17 localities, plus up to four at Mickletown Ings in late August, and seven at Fairburn Ings on 14th August. Singles at four places during October, and Mickletown Ings on 20th November.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

The Humber Estuary counts totalled 1,068 on 23rd January; 830 on 6th February; 2,470 on 4th September; 5,670 on 2nd October; 2,400 on 27th November and 1,330 on 18th December.

Maxima at other localities associated with the Humber of 371 on 2nd April and 1,150 on 4th September at Spurn; 1,950 roosting on fields between Kilnsea and Easington on 9th August; 182 at Blacktoft Sands on 4th November and 215 at the Wildfowl Refuge on 18th December.

110 at Flamborough on 8th January; 80 at Filey in February, and 50 at Johnson's Marsh, Scarborough on 27th November.

Highest counts during the spring return to inland sites of 50 at Long Preston on 15th March; 100 in the Lower Derwent and 40 at Tophill Low Res. on 20th March, with 15 to 30 at six other sites.

Bred along the Rivers Humber, Derwent and Ouse and at many other lowland and moorland localities. 90 pairs on the Lower Derwent and ten pairs along the Pocklington Canal. 15 pairs on the moors west of Halifax. Seven pairs on Embsay Moor, and five pairs at West Stonesdale.

Mickletown Ings had higher numbers wintering than most inland sites with 21 on 8th January and 16 on 30th December. 40 at Went Ings on 21st December.

Correction to the 1982 Report: line seven 'The Lower Derwent . . . , and at least 96 pairs bred'.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

The first at Dewsbury S.F. on 13th March, then one to three at 15 localities between early April and early June, with four at Easington on 17th April.

Widespread records of up to five from late June to mid October. Higher counts of 12 at Blacktoft Sands on 5th July, and nine at Beacon Lane ponds on 21st July; 18 at Fairburn Ings on 8th August; six on the Lower Derwent on 18th; nine at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 26th; and nine at Gouthwaite Res. on 28th August, and 13 south over Thrybergh Res. on 21st August. Six at Thorp Arch S.F. and seven at Mickletown Ings on 1st September. Up to seven at Spurn.

Singles in November at Wath Ings on 5th, Gouthwaite Res. on 13th, and Fairburn Ings on 27th, and two at Denaby Ings on 7th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Birds wintering at more than 15 localities generally singles, but three at Pulfin Bog on 21st January and five at Knostrop S.F. on 2nd March. The Wath Ings and Broomhill Flash area had birds all the year apart from the period 27th April to 18th June, including up to three in January.

A light spring passage, but as in 1982 an excellent autumn passage. Four on Thorne Moors on 21st June, and five at Wheldrake Ings on 24th, and seven there on 11th July.

Five at Spurn and Seamer G.P., and six at Staveley were maxima for these sites in July. Over 50 localities had from one to five during August, including several sites that regularly held more than ten.

Tophill Low Res. had 11 on 30th June; 23 on 11th July and 13 on 31st; 20 on 5th and 6th August, and up to seven in September, and on 10th October. At Melbourne, 12 on 27th July; 15 on three August days, and 17 on 16th August. 21 in the Wath Ings area on 21st July and 12th August. 15 at Burstwick on 11th August; 12 at Blacktoft Sands on 13th, and 16 on 24th August. Eight at Fairburn Ings on 10th August.

Up to five at several sites in October, and one to two at 12 localities in November and December, including three at Hackenthorpe on 20th November.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Singles in the spring at Harrogate S.F. on 17th April and 7th May, and Fairburn Ings on 6th May.

Singles at Masham G.P. on 24th, Nosterfield G.P. on 25th, and Tophill Low Res. from 24th to 29th July.

During August singles on various dates at Holme Wood G.P., Blacktoft Sands, Tophill Low Res., Nosterfield G.P., Malham Tarn, Broadstones Res., Barnby Dun, Burghley Banks, Wath Ings and Broomhill Flash, Melbourne (two from 15th to 17th), and Fairburn Ings (two on 24th).

Johnson's Marsh, Scarborough had one to two from 12th to 15th September, and singles at Blacktoft Sands, Wath Ings, Nosterfield G.P., over Fairburn Ings and at Mickletown Ings during September, and the last one at Pugney's G.P. from 27th September to 4th October.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

An early single at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough on 9th March (MFe), and the next at Stearsby on 29th. Further singles on the Lower Derwent on 9th April; at Fairburn Ings on 12th; at Pool Paper Mills on 13th; at Pugney's G.P. on 14th April followed by a widespread influx of small numbers from 17th to 21st April. Spring maxima of eight at Dewsbury S.F. and 17 at Pugney's G.P. on 21st April; 28 at Gouthwaite Res. on 30th April, and 30 at Whiteholme Res. on 30th May.

The widespread reports of breeding were mostly from upland habitats, but a pair were at Hagg Bridge near York on 10th June.

Many localities near breeding areas had six to eight from mid July to late August. Higher counts of 12 at Nosterfield G.P. from 5th to 23rd July, and 36 at Gouthwaite Res. on 9th July. In the east of the county during August seven at Spurn on 8th, and at Scarborough on 26th, and eight at Tophill Low Res., and the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 25th.

Most had left by 24th September, but singles at Spurn Point and Burstwick G.P. on 28th, and five localities in V.C. 64 had individuals in October, the last being at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 10th.

Late singles at Fairburn Ings on 24th November, and Beal on 3rd December.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*

An adult at Ingbirchworth Res. from 13th to 28th September (GJS *et al.*). The fifth record for the county.

Accepted by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Larger numbers than usual at Filey Brigg during the early months, with maxima of 150 in January and 400 in March; 650 on 3rd April, and 38 as late as 11th May. Maximum of over 100 for each of the first four months at Spurn, including 220 on 16th April. 330 in Cornelian Bay on 8th January (SML). During February 115 at Flamborough on 20th, and 154 at Bridlington on 26th. 100 at Jackson's Bay on 16th April.

Few in the county during June, but numbers built up again during July, and 116 were at Spurn by the month-end, and monthly maxima there exceeded 100 to the year-end, including 250 on 14th August, and 213 on 4th September. Smaller autumn counts elsewhere, with 160 at Filey Brigg in September and October; over 50 in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 1st September and 184 on 9th October; 42 at Flamborough on 8th October, and 58 at Bridlington on 21st December.

Inland, one to three at eight localities on various dates from 21st April to 30th May, with four at Fairburn Ings; four east over Broomhill Flash on 15th May, and four at Southfield Res. on 27th April. One to two at ten localities between 14th July and 17th September. Blacktoft Sands had five in August, and four were at Fairburn Ings on 4th September.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

A female at Blacktoft Sands on 23rd June (AG).

Addition to the 1979 Report: One at Barmston on 8th and 9th September (GMB, CJS).

Accepted by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

A female at Blacktoft Sands from 24th to 29th July (AG). One at Gouthwaite Res. from 6th to 9th August (AFGW *et al*). One north at Flamborough Head on 29th October (PAL, NAP).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

One at Filey Brigg up to 6th January (MJG). One at Scalby Mills from 23rd January into February (JMD *et al*). Singles at Flamborough on 8th and 16th February (AMA, JMP).

One at Ingbirchworth Res. on 16th and 17th September (PDB, DH, PG *et al*). One on the Humber at Spurn on 22nd October. One at Staveley on 23rd October. Singles at Flamborough on 17th (PAL), and Barmston on 20th November (PIH).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

A few winter and spring records, with one at Flamborough on 4th January and 9th February, and two on 6th February; one at Filey on 9th April (MJG, HJW); two at Spurn on 3rd May, and one at Flamborough on 17th June.

Flamborough had birds on eight days from 4th to 29th August, with six on 21st and 28th and nine on 29th; regular sightings during September including seven on 5th and six on 25th and 29th, and during October, five on 1st, three on 14th, and two on 29th and 30th (PAL, AMA, DGH *et al*).

One at Spurn Point on 13th August, and one to two there almost daily from 27th August to 13th September (a total of 26 bird days), then three north on 30th September; regularly in October from 19th (15 bird days), and one on 12th November.

Singles at Filey on 28th August and 10th September.

One south at Withernsea on 25th September (SML).

Two at Scarborough on 11th September, one on 12th, and one on 30th (MDW, RNH, ASK). One north at Ravenscar on 5th November (TME).

20 at Flamborough on 12th November.

One over the River Humber at Blacktoft Sands on 11th September (AG).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Singles at Spurn and Flamborough on 9th January, and at Filey on 19th. Singles at Flamborough on 9th February; in Bridlington Bay on 21st March, and at Spurn on 23rd April.

During May singles at Spurn and Flamborough on 2nd; at Filey on 7th, when two were at Flamborough; two at Spurn on 27th, and one at Flamborough on 31st.

An excellent autumn for coastal passage, with at least 2,500 at Spurn; about 3,300 at Flamborough and 2,349 at Filey Brigg. Small numbers at these places during July, after the first three at Filey on 23rd June, where there were 72 on 1st August.

On the days of heaviest passage, with the majority of birds moving south, numbers at Filey, Flamborough and Spurn respectively were on 13th August, 94, 192 and 100; 28th August, 332, 547 and 420; 3rd September, 403, 417 and 198, plus 59 at Scarborough, and on 5th September, 131, 215 and 261. Also on 20th August, 52 at Scarborough and 124 at Filey. On 10th September, 229 at Filey and 200 at Spurn, and on 11th, 264 at Filey; 333 at Spurn, and 69 at Withernsea. 214 at Flamborough on 15th September. Fewer during October, and the last were three at Flamborough and one at Filey on 13th November, and one at Flamborough on 14th.

Singles inland at Blacktoft Sands flying west on 30th April and 30th May, west over Wintersett Res. on 5th May, and one at Dewsbury S.F. on 7th. Two at Southfield Res. on 13th May. Four at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge and three at Blacktoft Sands, on 8th September, and another at Blacktoft on 11th. One south over Wheldrake Ings on 21st October.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

One adult north at Spurn on 12th May.

At Flamborough, during August, singles on 9th, 14th, 27th (GPC) and 30th, four on 28th and three on 29th (AMA, DGH *et al*); at Spurn singles on 13th and 24th (GED), and at Filey Brigg one on 25th (MJG).

In September again most at Flamborough, with one on 12th; three on 25th and three on 27th, and one on 29th (PAL, JMP, AMA), and one off Hornsea on 24th (SML). Immatures at Flamborough on 1st October (DIMW), and Spurn on 23rd (JED, DS), and one at Filey on 4th (PJD).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

More than usual in the early months with singles at Filey on 9th January, 29th March and 1st April; at Flamborough on 11th and 12th February, 6th and 20th March, 2nd April, and three on 3rd April; at Withernsea on 7th March, and at Spurn on 1st May.

One at Scarborough on 20th July, where the maxima were 12 on 7th, and eight on 8th September. 21 at Flamborough on 30th July, and regular there and at Spurn, Filey and Scarborough, during August and September. Highest counts during August, of 46 on 6th, 50 on 13th, 66 on 29th and 52 on 30th at Flamborough; 36 at Filey, and 34 at Spurn on 28th.

Record counts on 10th September at both Filey of 118, and at Flamborough of 144. 79 at Filey and at Spurn on 11th September.

24 at Flamborough on 25th September, and 13 at Spurn on 28th October. Singles at Spurn, Scalby Mills and Ravenscar (one on 19th) in mid November. Inland, singles at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge and Blacktoft Sands on 14th September, and over York University on 14th November.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Many of the records below, although listed separately, may well refer to individuals that are covering considerable distances. For example the adult at Bridlington was doubtless seen to the north and south, particularly in the spring and summer.

The Bridlington adult, now appearing for a sixth year, was present until mid April, and occasionally from the late autumn to the year end (JCL *et al*). Single adults at Whitby (MFe), and Flamborough on 23rd January. First-winter birds at Bridlington on 19th, 22nd and 23rd February (JCL), and at Scarborough from 3rd to 5th March (MFe, SC). An adult north at Spurn on 13th April, and first-summer birds at Hornsea on 7th (SML), and south at Spurn on 9th May. Single adults at Flamborough on 30th and 31st May, and 4th July, and at Filey Brigg on 4th and 5th, and a first-summer on 5th July.

A juvenile at Filey on 30th August. During September second-winter birds at Scalby Mills on 5th and 12th (MDW), and at Withernsea on 16th (SML); two different first-winter birds at Scalby Mills on 12th and 17th (MFe); and at Spurn an adult on 14th, 17th and 24th to 26th with a near-adult on 17th. First-winter and second-winter birds at Filey on 1st October, and a first-winter at Flamborough on the same day. An adult at

Spurn on 10th October, and one north on 26th; a second-winter at Easington on 25th, and similar plumaged individual north at Spurn on 26th and 30th, and again on 5th November.

Single adults south at Spurn on 13th and 20th November; at Easington on 21st December, and at Sammy's Point on 28th (JED *et al*), and at Flamborough on 4th December.

Inland, another good year with first-winter birds at Wintersett Res. from 2nd January to 21st February (PS, SD *et al*), and at Stairfoot Quarry Tip on 11th February (JH). A second-winter west at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 10th March (MLD). An adult at Fairburn Ings on 5th April (PK, CW), and a first-summer at Wheldrake Ings on 25th (TJB). Single adults at Eccup Res. on 22nd October (RCH), and north-west over Broomhill Flash on 26th November (JMT), and a first-winter there on 3rd and 8th December (GJS, NS *et al*).

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*

A first-year north at Fairburn Ings on 3rd May (GRW).

Not accepted by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

V.C. 61: Singles on occasional dates at six localities during January and February. Four north-east at Spurn on 23rd April. At Wheldrake Ings an adult from 14th May to 11th June, and a first-summer from 18th May to 13th July, with another on 15th June. Two at Barmston on 11th July.

Hornsea Mere had 67 on 18th July; 89 on 28th; 135 on 15th August; 174 on 18th (even higher than the 1980 record count); 168 to 24th August, down to 62 on 5th, and 24 on 7th September (GRB). Individuals regularly during this period at Filey (12 on 7th August); Flamborough (25 on 10th August); Tophill Low Res. and Spurn (53 north-east on 9th August).

Higher numbers off the coast later in the autumn, included 49 at Flamborough on 25th September; 59 at Withernsea on 19th October, and 101 feeding offshore there on 20th October. Moving north at Spurn 77 on 19th October, 72 on 20th, 59 on 21st; and 64 on 27th left to the north-west, and on 28th October 65 were offshore and 25 moved north. 122 passed Flamborough, mainly south on 12th November.

Small numbers to the year end at several places.

V.C. 62: Singles at Scalby Mills on 12th February; 16th July; 12th August and 4th September, and six there on 11th and 12th September. At Scarborough one in North Bay on 28th August; four north off Marine Drive on 10th September; 25 in South Bay on 11th, and 16 north off Marine Drive on 12th. One at Scarborough on 29th December.

V.C. 63: Singles, for one day only, at three sites during April, two in May and one in June. Up to four at Pugney's G.P. and Wintersett Res. from 5th to 8th August. Two at Pugney's G.P. on 20th August, and one on 13th November. Singles at Thrybergh Res. on 3rd September; Wintersett Res. on 19th October, and Ulley Res. on 31st December. One at Southfield Res. on 13th February and six on 5th July.

V.C. 64: At Fairburn Ings one on 3rd, and two on 5th April; one on 7th June; two on 15th August, and one on 7th September. Mickletown Ings had one on 17th May, and two on 31st May. Two at Knotford Nook on 28th August; one at Gouthwaite Res. on 20th August, and two on 16th October, and one at Settle S.F. on 20th October.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

With three exceptions all the sightings were of adult birds. At Flamborough singles on 10th April, 27th May (sub-adult) and 23rd July (all DIMW). At Spurn two south on 8th, and one south on 10th September. At Flamborough again one on 10th September (AMA, PAL, SR), two on 18th September (one first-summer) (AMA), and one on 17th October (DIMW). An immature north at Spurn on 29th October (SLJ, KR).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

V.C. 61: The roost at Wheldrake Ings again had vast numbers at the end of the winter, with 27,000 on 13th March down to 2,500 by 4th April, and had an earlier peak of 9,050 on

23rd January, down to 3,500 at the month-end. 4,000 at Tophill Low Res. in the early months, but many more during the autumn including 6,000 on 2nd and 12,000 on 29th September; 5,000 on 3rd and 10,000 on 17th October, but only 1,000 in November, and 4,000 during December.

About 400 pairs bred at Skipwith Common, and 250 pairs in the Lower Derwent area.

V.C. 62: Over 600 at Peasholm Park in January and November, and 1,000 at Scalby Mills on 22nd January. At Strensall Common more than 50 pairs bred, and 95 young were reared.

V.C. 63: Roost maxima included during January, 6,000 at Broomhead Res. (1st); 5,000 at Pugney's G.P. (6th), and at Wintersett Res. (11th to 14th), and 4,411 at Blackmoorfoot Res. (23rd), and during February 6,000 at Wintersett Res. (9th) and Pugney's G.P. (20th).

Bred at Black Moss near Marsden (108 pairs), Thorpe Marsh and Potteric Carr.

8,000 roosting at Wintersett Res. on 13th and 30th December, and 4,650 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 25th.

V.C. 64: Roost maxima in the early months of 11,250 at Eccup Res. on 23rd January; 4,000 at Fairburn Ings on 13th February, and 2,000 at Gouthwaite Res. during January.

Bred at Fairburn Ings (153 pairs), Barden Moor (1,000 pairs), Masham G.P. (40 pairs), Staveley (15 pairs), at Mickletown Ings and near Long Preston (one pair only, which failed due to drying floodwaters).

Over 5,000 roosting at Hay-a-Park in mid October, and 8,000 at Eccup Res. on 26th October.

32 oiled birds at three sites in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 between 29th September and 2nd October following a spillage in the Humber on 28th September.

V.C. 65: Bred at moorland tarns above Wensleydale; at West Stonesdale (20 pairs), and at Nosterfield G.P. (425 pairs). 5,000 roosting at Nosterfield on 8th March, and 2,350 on 16th September, and 1,000 at Thornton Steward Res. on 30th November.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

V.C. 61: The roost at Tophill Low Res. had high numbers in the early months, with 7,000 on 24th and 27th January; 9,000 on 7th February, and 4,000 on 11th March, but fewer at the year end, with peaks of 3,000 on 17th September, and 2,000 on 5th December. Oiled birds here on 2nd and 3rd October (80), following a spillage in the Humber. 2,000 at Ellerton Ings on 17th February, and at Wheldrake Ings as with the previous species the roost peaked in March, with over 5,000 on 12th.

1,400 roosting at Flamborough on 8th January, and 1,000 at Hornsea Mere on 5th December, with peaks elsewhere less than 1,000.

3,100 south at Spurn on 17th October.

V.C. 62: At Fadmoor near Kirkbymoorside 1,500 adults feeding on ploughed land on 2nd April (GWF).

V.C. 63: 1,000 to 2,000 at Blacktoft Sands in the autumn and winter. Counts were generally below 300, but maxima included 620 at Scammonden Dam on 8th January; 700 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 16th January, and 575 on 25th December; 300 at Fly Flatts Res. on 3rd January; 600 at Wintersett Res. on 22nd December.

V.C. 64: Maximum roost counts of 834 at Gouthwaite Res. on 22nd January; 3,700 at Eccup Res. on 23rd January, and 5,500 on 26th October, and 350 at Lower Barden Res. on 5th February. Single pairs bred at Upper Barden Res. and on Fountains Fell. Five oiled birds at Eccup Res. on 30th September.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Numbers at inland roosts were moderate with few maxima over 300. Considered to be more scarce along the coast, particularly at Flamborough and Spurn; few were reported from Scarborough, but Filey showed a slight increase in records.

400 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 8th January, 470 at Ellerton Tip on 17th June, and after declining up to late July, numbers increased there to 320 by 30th September.

800 at Fairburn Ings on 14th September, 400 at Howden Golf Course on 17th, and at Skellbrooke Tip in mid-month. 365 at Eccup Res. on 26th October, and 310 at Masham G.P. on 13th November. Eight oiled birds at Tophill Low Res. on 30th September.

122 on Blea Moor above Ribblehead on 28th June, and small numbers over other moorland sites in V.C. 65.

Darker backed individuals showing characteristics of the races *L.f. fuscus* and *L.f. intermedius* reported from many sites including Beighton, Skellbrooke Tip, Redmires Res., Blackmoorfoot Res., Broomhill Flash, Eccup Res., Wormald Green Tip, Naburn, the Lower Derwent area, Spurn Point and Bolton-on-Swale.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Up to 3,000 in Filey Bay during January, and 8,700 passed Flamborough on 20th February. 1,900 at Hornsea Mere on 5th February. 2,000 at Spurn on 22nd March.

At least ten inland roosts and tips had winter maxima of 150 to 500, with higher maxima of 725 at Fairburn Ings on 22nd January; 630 at Eccup Res. on 23rd January; 1,200 at Broomhead Res. on 6th February; 630 at Pugney's G.P. on 2nd February, and an isolated peak of 2,000 at Wintersett Res. on 15th December.

Yellow legged birds probably of the race *L.a. omissus* off Flamborough in January; at Roundhay Park (6th February); Blackmoorfoot Res. (September to October); Redmires Res. (late August to mid October) and at Spurn (August and November).

Albinistic individuals were one at Bridlington during the early months and again in October, and one at Wintersett Res. on 18th November.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucopterus*

V.C. 61: Filey had at least four individuals appearing on a total of 14 dates up to 6th April. Singles off Flamborough on five dates from 2nd February to 7th May, plus two on 20th February (PAL *et al.*). Many records between mid January and late April in the Sewerby/Bridlington/Wilthorpe area, with at least eight individuals involved (JCL *et al.*). One at Atwick on 2nd March (WFC), and two at Hornsea Mere on 19th March (SML). One at Ellerton Tip on 24th February (TJB), and at Wheldrake Ings on 2nd May (JAP) and Ellerton on 3rd (TJB).

One at Flamborough on 23rd July (DIMW).

Singles at Filey on 26th November, and February on 17th December.

V.C. 62: A first-winter at Scarborough harbour from 2nd January to 2nd February (KR *et al.*), with a second-winter from 5th to 30th January (GED *et al.*). Singles at Scalby Mills on 3rd January (RNH); at Whitby on 23rd January (MFe), and off Marine Drive, Scarborough on 9th March (PJD).

V.C. 63: Two at Ardsley Res. on 20th January (PRG). One at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 22nd January (CH). Singles at Wintersett Res. on 3rd and 12th February (PS *et al.*). Singles at Broomhead Res. on 4th and 5th February, and at Shirecliffe Tip on 5th (RT, SJR).

A second-winter on 10th December, and an adult on 12th and 13th at Wintersett Res. (PS *et al.*).

V.C. 64: At Eccup Res. three adults in the early months from 3rd January to 24th February, 4th to 23rd February and 30th March to 19th April, and a first-winter from 30th January to 4th February (RCH, DEH, EK, SPS). A first-winter at Swinsty Res. on 24th January (GTF), and an adult at Mickletown Ings on 5th February (BT).

An adult at Eccup Res. from 16th to 31st December.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

V.C. 61: The best year on record for the Filey, Flamborough and Bridlington areas. At Filey at least 11 individuals involved up to 9th April including five on 5th and 12th March, and nine on 19th. At Flamborough seven on 8th and 18th January, nine on 20th February and 5th March, three on 3rd May, and last one on 10th May. Bridlington had up to four present on many days during the first three months. Probably five different birds on nine dates at Spurn, between 19th January and 28th April.

Singles at Filey on 13th and 27th August; on two days in October; on 19th November, and two on 26th November.

One at Flamborough on 26th August; singles on 25th September; and from late October to the year end, plus two on 29th October and 27th November, and three on 10th December.

Three at Spurn on 17th October, and singles there and at Hornsea Mere, Withernsea, Kilnsea and Hull Docks on a few dates.

V.C. 62: At least five individuals in the Scarborough area on various dates between 4th January and 4th February. One at Scalby Mills on 2nd March (first-winter), and one on 16th July (adult), and again on 21st August.

A first-winter at Scarborough on 24th November and 13th December.

V.C. 63: Three singles (all second-winter) at Blackmoorfoot Res. between 9th and 26th January. A second-winter at Monkton Tip and Wintersett Res. on 12th and 14th January, and three other singles (adult and two first-winter) at that reservoir between 31st January and 10th February. Singles at Langsett Res. on 22nd January, Broomhead Res. on 5th February, Stairfoot Quarry Tip on 10th and Woodhouse Tip on 12th were all first-winter as was one at Blacktoft Sands on 11th.

Singles at Orgreave Tip on 26th March and Blacktoft Sands on 1st May.

Singles at Wintersett Res. on 26th November; Broomhead Res. on 4th December, and at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 11th December.

V.C. 64: Six different individuals at Eccup Res. on various dates from 3rd January to 22nd February, and another on 30th March. Singles at Wormald Green Tip on 16th January, and Swinsty Res. on 17th. At Fairburn Ings at least three different birds on six days between 13th January and 15th April.

One at Eccup Res. from 3rd to 5th December.

Possible Glaucous Gull/Herring Gull hybrids noted at Bridlington, Scalby Mills and Wintersett Res.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Wintersett Res. had 700 roosting on 12th January, and 1,000 on 30th December, and 980 were at Fairburn Ings on 7th February. Counts at ten other inland sites did not exceed 300 and were mostly of about 100 to 150.

1,350 at Flamborough on 1st January; 500 at Scalby Mills on 13th October; 1,145 at Spurn on 16th October, and 450 at Hornsea Mere on 29th November were the highest counts on or near the coast, whilst along the River Humber 600 at Hull Docks on 23rd January, and 1,200 at Whitton Sands on 22nd.

Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*

An adult at Filey Brigg from 17th to 20th February (PB, PJD, JF, RB *et al*).

Accepted by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

An adult at Scarborough on 11th February (NCM, DW).

Under consideration by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

At Flamborough first-winter birds flew south on 12th February (PAL, DIMW), and north on 10th December (DGH, PAL, JCL).

Not yet submitted to *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

No counts received of the breeding colonies on the cliffs of Flamborough Head, or further north.

6,500 south at Spurn on 28th October.

Inland, 74 records covering every month but a distinct peak of passage from late February to mid April. Eight at Fairburn Ings on 17th April. 15 west at Blacktoft Sands on 29th May. 11 at Gouthwaite Res. on 10th September.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Single birds at Flamborough on 5th and 11th June (PAL).
Not yet submitted to *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

First two at Spurn on 31st March, then singles at Flamborough and Filey on 2nd and 4th April respectively. A steady spring passage, with up to 25 daily at several coastal localities.

Peak counts in August of 800 each at Spurn on 13th, Filey on 18th and Flamborough on 19th. On 3rd September the peak day of southerly passage, with 1,905 at Filey; 2,021 at Flamborough, and 1,850 at Spurn. 692 north at Hornsea on 7th September. Last one at Spurn on 19th October.

One to two on several dates at Blacktoft Sands from 27th April to 1st October, and up to three at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge, on several July and August days.

Inland, away from the River Humber, 19 records of one to four at 12 places, including higher numbers of five on 23rd April, and six on 30th at Staveley and 21 at Fairburn Ings on 2nd May.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Flamborough had two on 31st May (DIMW), one on 4th June (AMA) and four on 27th August (GPC). Three at Filey Brigg on 25th June (MJG, HJW).

Inland, one at Mickletown Ings on 30th May (BT), two at Fairburn Ings on 18th June (JG, CW et al) and one at Sprotbrough Flash on 10th July (KPH et al).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Coastal passage quite moderate in the spring. In the autumn peaks of 737 on 6th and 544 on 30th August at Flamborough, and over 200 at Filey Brigg on several days in August. At Spurn, where this species and Arctic Tern, *S. paradisaea* were not separated in the report, 182 on 14th and 174 on 27th August, and 215 on 3rd and 222 on 5th September.

A good spring passage inland from 20th April to late June, with birds at nearly 30 sites mostly numbering less than ten but some exceptions were, Pugney's G.P. 11 on 19th May, 50 on 30th May and 22 on 7th June; Fairburn Ings 48 on 2nd May; 56 on 30th May and 30th June; Broomhill Flash 11 and Sprotbrough Flash 17 on 30th May; Knotford Nook 12 on 1st June, and 16 north over Anchor Plain on 1st May.

A pair attempted to nest at Holme Wood G.P. but failed after a storm on 24th July. Two pairs at Fairburn Ings, one of which bred hatching three and rearing two young. Pairs present and displayed at Mickletown Ings and Hay-a-Park, and briefly at York University Lake.

Smaller numbers during the autumn but again noted at over 20 localities. 12 on Southfield Res. on 23rd June. 12 at Pugney's G.P. on 9th July. 22 at Hornsea Mere on 7th August, and at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd October.

Other late individuals at Spurn on 12th, and at Knotford Nook from 18th to 24th October.

Birds not specifically identified which were either of this species or Arctic Tern, *S. paradisaea*, and therefore reported as *commics*, are detailed below.

Four at Elsecar Res. on 14th April. On 2nd May, 21 east over Frickley Park; nine over Wath Ings; 18 at Farnham G.P., and 103 north-west over Gouthwaite Res. in several parties, plus 40 over Thrybergh Res. and 43 at Southfield Res. and 60 on 3rd May (see Arctic Tern). 17 north over Harehills Road, Leeds on 30th May. Seven at Wintersett Res. on 29th August, and nine at Rivelin Res. on 24th September.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Two each at Blacktoft Sands and Fairburn Ings on 19th April. Pugney's G.P. had 16 on 27th April and 19 on 1st May, when 26 were at Wath Ings. On 2nd May conditions were cloudy and cold with outbreaks of rain in a force three north-easterly. Very high numbers particularly in the valleys of the Aire, Calder and Don appeared on that day, with 378 at Pugney's G.P. and 369 at Fairburn Ings; 33 at Thrybergh Res.; 43 at Potteric Carr, 36 at

Wintersett Res., and 27 at Blacktoft Sands (23 at Whitton Sands), 20 at Southfield Res., and smaller numbers at many places including eight at Ardsley Res. and seven at Bishops Monkton, 55 west at Blacktoft Sands on 3rd May; eight at Mickletown Ings on 4th, and 87 east in the Sunk Island area on 8th May.

Few reports during the autumn, with no more than four at any inland site.

12 at Filey Brigg on 25th April, but otherwise coastal reports were few although there were birds at Flamborough in the peak counts, and at Spurn (see Common Tern).

The last inland, one at Pugney's G.P. on 27th September, and on the coast two at Flamborough on 16th October, and one at Spurn on 18th.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Three at Spurn on 24th April and five on 29th, and one at Wheldrake Ings on 26th.

No obvious passage apart from 14 at Spurn on 21st May. Six pairs nested at Easington, but lost all their first clutches; however, five pairs relaid and 14 young were successfully reared.

Noted along the coast at Scarborough (two south on 23rd July), Filey, Flamborough and Withernsea, with usually no more than four and most records during August. 21 south off Withernsea on 21st July. Regularly at Spurn up to late August, including 20 on 8th, and the last one there on 5th October.

Inland, singles during May at Thorpe Marsh on 1st; Fairburn Ings on 15th, and at Sprotbrough Flash and Pugney's G.P. on 30th. One at Hay-a-Park on 9th June, one at Southfield Res. on 2nd July, and one at Blacktoft Sands on 13th July. Blackmoorfoot Res. had one from 11th to 18th September, with a second on 11th and 16th, and another on 21st.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

A first-summer bird at Castle Howard Lake on 4th June (DW, MGR).

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

One at Flamborough on 2nd April was exceptionally early, the next being three at Pugney's G.P. on 22nd April. During the next four days birds at eight sites including, six at Blacktoft Sands on 25th, and five north at Aughton joining a sixth at Wheldrake on 26th. A moderate passage during May, with on 6th eight at Tophill Low Res.; ten at Welton Water; 13 at Blacktoft Sands; 16 in the Lower Derwent area; five at Fairburn Ings, and 14 at Southfield Res.

Some coastal records in the autumn mainly of singles apart from 14 south at Filey on 3rd September, and small numbers regularly at Spurn, including six on 9th August and 1st September.

16 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd September, but otherwise only one to three inland at about 15 places. Late singles during October at Elland G.P. to the 20th; at Doe Park Res., Denholme, on 22nd, and at Hornsea Mere from 24th to 27th (IJP).

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

An adult flew north from Spurn to Kilnsea, and eventually to Easington Lagoons, on 29th May (CF, GF, JMT *et al.*).

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Strong to gale force north-easterly winds on 4th and 5th February brought about a massive wreck of auk species along the east coast of Britain. A full report appeared in *Bird Study* 31:79–88. The numbers found dead along the Yorkshire coast of this and the other auk species are taken from that report. About 2,230 had been found by late February. The majority of those examined were considered to have originated from colonies in Scotland and north-eastern England. From the blackness of their upperparts many of those collected at Spurn seemed to belong to the Northern race, *U.a. aalge*.

Passage at Flamborough of 19,000 on 20th February and 25,000 on 27th March. 3,500 an hour off Filey on 17th May.

One at Blacktoft Sands on 29th October.

Breeding numbers at the colonies apparently showed little change.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

About 4,100 found after the February wreck the great majority of which were considered to be of British origin, as only 1 per cent of those examined were of the race *A.t. torda*, probably from Scandinavia and Russia.

Precise figures of the Bempton and Flamborough colonies were not received, but for both it is suggested that there is a slight increase in breeding numbers.

One found dead at Southfield Res. on 12th March.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

One off Flamborough Head on 12th February (PAL, DIMW), and one off Filey Brigg on 2nd July (PJD, JAP, HJW).

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Large numbers along the coast from 6th to 9th February. On 6th, 134 at Long Nab, Burniston; 34 at Scarborough; 81 at Filey; 356 at Flamborough; 76 off the Bridlington to Barmston stretch; 64 at Withernsea, but only four at Spurn. On 7th, 101 at Scarborough; 55 at Filey; 218 at Flamborough; 31 at Bridlington and 140 at Atwick. On 8th, six at Scarborough; 161 at Filey; 884 at Flamborough; 755 in Bridlington Bay, and 171 at Atwick. On 9th, 30 at Scarborough; 225 in Filey Bay; 274 at Flamborough and 166 in Bridlington Bay, and of those on the move the majority were flying north on all days. Smaller numbers during the next few days although possibly at least 30 north at Scalby Mills on 12th.

295 found dead along the coast from 10th February onwards. Two of those found at Flamborough, and three at Spurn were of the race *A.a. polaris* although the majority were considered to be of the race *A.a. alle*.

Singles at Flamborough on 27th May and 25th August.

Inland singles during February at Dalby (died on 7th); Ripon College, Underbank Res. and Knotford Nook on 8th; Strensall and Blacktoft Sands (two) on 10th; Eecup Res. on 10th and 11th; Woodkirk, Crossflatts (Keighley), Knotford Nook and Blacktoft Sands on 11th; Gouthwaite Res. on 12th; Fangfoss on 13th; Wheldrake on 20th and Langsett on 27th, and also during this period at Welwick, Kilnwick and Hunmanby.

Birds also appeared inland during the autumn passage, with 36 passing the Humber Wildfowl Refuge and Blacktoft Sands on 29th October when one was on the River Ouse at Poppleton. One found dead at Aukley Common on 3rd November.

A massive coastal movement commenced quietly, with 14 on 21st October, ten on 22nd and three on 24th at Spurn where on the afternoon of 28th 770 moved north offshore. On 29th October 1,742 north and 25 on the Humber at Spurn, but an unprecedented 6,244 off Flamborough (PAL, AMA, DGH, JCL, JMP); 134 at Filey Brigg; 19 at Scalby Mills, and one flying inland over Scarborough. On 30th October, 13 at Spurn (seven south); 28 at Flamborough; 20 at Filey Brigg, and one at Ravenscar.

Further passage at Flamborough of 237 on 12th November; 70 on 13th; 306 on 16th and 72 on 17th. At Spurn 15 on 15th; 93 on 16th and ten on 19th November. Singles at Cornelian Bay on 12th and Bridlington on 19th November, and one found dead at Scalby School on 26th December.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

About 425 found dead along the coast in mid February.

Inland, one at Tophill Low Res. on 13th February, and one dead there on 26th, and one at Rothwell, Leeds on 23rd was released at Spurn on 24th.

Over 6,000 passed Flamborough on 27th March and 6th August.

No counts received of the breeding colonies.

One flew along the River Ouse at Blacktoft Sands, and presumably the same flew up river at Fulford, York later on 5th September.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

770 at Flamborough on 26th January; 600 on 9th October; 900 on 2nd November, and 1,000 on 5th November.

500 flying west over Hunmanby from the direction of Bempton towards the Wolds on 17th January (BS & SP). Single figure numbers in the Tophill Low area.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

A vast flock of 800 moved south over Broomhill Flash on 29th January, and the same area had 400 to 500 in October and early November. At Hatfield Moors, 350 in January, and over 170 on 31st December.

Numbers elsewhere in the county were smaller, with in January, 81 at Patrington on 9th; 60 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 25th, and 57 at Parlington Park; on 6th February 120 at Catcliffe, and at Southburn 60 on 9th April.

In the autumn and winter, 130 at Broadstones, Ingberwick on 17th September; 100 at Catcliffe on 3rd November, and at Thorp Arch S.F. on 16th; 110 near Pebley Pond on 10th December, and 50 in Parlington Park, with flocks of 30 to 50 at several places in November and December.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

High numbers in the county at both ends of the year.

During January 10,000 at Hornsea Mere on 25th; over 2,000 at Bubwith on 22nd; 2,500 at Pulfin Bog on 28th and several other flocks of 500 to over 1,000 near York and in other Humberside areas. Further west and south, 7,000 at Wentworth in January; 2,000 over Parkway Sheffield on 29th; and 4,000 over Catcliffe on 30th were flying west-south-west, and 3,500 were at Storthes Hall, Huddersfield on 29th. Very high numbers south of Huddersfield from 2nd to 20th February, including a peak of 20,000 on 9th and 10th and 28,000 on 11th in the Netherton and Hall Dike area. 2,000 at Storwood on 13th, and 1,000 at Hagg Bridge on 26th February.

The highest numbers at the year-end were mainly in the east during December, with up to 5,000 near Hornsea; 3,000 at Millington Pastures on 11th; 1,000 at Acaster on 10th; 4,100 west at Newburgh in 50 minutes on 14th; and 2,000 each at Brind and Bubwith on 24th and 26th, respectively. Regular southerly movement in autumn over Fairburn peaked at 1,837 on 20th October, and 1,000 went east of Knaresborough on 14th November.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

The roost at Headingley with 350 on 5th February gave the only three figure count before the autumn.

Still slowly increasing its range and numbers in some upland areas in the south, and lowland parts of the Dales.

Apart from 503 at Selby on 17th December all the larger gatherings were further west and south. 140 at Harthill Res. on 22nd September, and 520 on a bakery roof in Rotherham on 18th October, about which date Fairburn Ings had its maximum of 150. During November, over 500 at Bentley Tilts on 6th; 160 at Worsbrough on 10th, and 130 at Pugney's G.P. on 26th. December maxima of 100 at Sprotbrough Flash; 175 at Cudworth on 12th; 150 at Lotherton Hall on 26th, and 73 at Allerston near Scarborough and 85 at Barmston (on 28th) were high numbers for those two places.

Two of the fawn variety at Staveley on 9th June (SPW, JW).

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Early singles at Fairburn Ings on 16th April and Sprotbrough Flash on 17th, then at Blacktoft Sands and Denaby Ings on 21st, and at Elvington and Thrybergh on 22nd April, with widespread reports during the next week, and the main influx in the first two weeks of May.

Some southerly movement at Spurn, with maxima of 132 on 14th May, and 123 on 2nd June. 21 at Hornsea on 7th May; 58 at Flamborough, and 50 west at Blacktoft Sands on 14th May; and 47 on 8th and 48 on 12th June at Flamborough. 25 on Hatfield Moors on 4th May, and over 50 in the Lower Derwent on 8th May.

Small numbers at four sites near Scarborough including a pair breeding at Wykeham. A male displayed to, and mated with, a Collared Dove, *S. decaocto*, at Storwood on 6th June.

Peaks of 30 in the Wath area on 24th August, and 57 near Thrybergh Res. on 1st September.

The last inland was one at Catcliffe on 1st October, and near the coast one at Easington on 25th.

Rufous Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*

One at Flamborough on 26th June was considered to be of the race *S.o. orientalis* (AMA, DGH). This bird may have been an escape.

Not yet submitted to *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

The first at Ripon Park on 13th April, and at Harewood Park on 16th, with on 17th singles at Coxley and Stanley near Wakefield, and at up to 30 other places from 20th April to the month-end, including singles on Thorne Moors, at Wintersett, Burstwick and Anchor Plain on 20th, and three as far north as Ravenscar by 24th April. 14 on Hatfield Moor on 14th, and 11 on Thorne Moors on 30th May.

More numerous in parts of V.C. 63 than in recent years.

Singles in September at Wressle on 10th, Spurn on 15th, Woodhall on 16th, and at Concord Park, Sheffield from 20th to 23rd.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

V.C. 61: Sightings in Holderness were typically frequent, but no information was received about breeding pairs. A healthy situation east of York, particularly in the Lower Derwent and Pocklington Canal areas. The York Ornithological Club located 12 breeding pairs, and a further ten sites where breeding may have occurred.

V.C. 62: Rather more reports than in 1982, with three pairs at two localities. Singles at a few sites near Scarborough and in the Vale of Pickering. Two each at Cayton Carrs and Sherburn Ings on 5th November and 25th December respectively.

V.C. 63: Only one to two pairs each in the Sheffield, Doncaster, Barnsley, Wakefield and Huddersfield areas, probably totalling no more than seven breeding pairs. Widespread singles at other sites in the winter months, with more near Wakefield than usual.

V.C. 64: Bred at three sites in the Leeds area. Occurred at seven lowland sites near Harrogate, near Settle, at Fairburn Ings and at Mickletown Ings on dates between January and April, and October and December.

V.C. 65: One in Wensleydale all year, but many known sites here have been deserted in recent years (DIF). One at Catterick Bridge on 26th December.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

V.C. 61: A pair bred near Hornsea, and pairs bred at six sites near York. Pairs present at a further 13 sites, mainly in the York area.

V.C. 62: Pairs bred at three sites near Brandsby, and present at two sites in the Vale of Pickering, and at a further eight north of York.

V.C. 63: About 40 breeding pairs located and birds present at a further eight sites.

V.C. 64: Still flourishing with no apparent change of status.

V.C. 65: Singles at six localities.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Common and widespread throughout the county away from the higher hills and moorlands.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

V.C. 61: Three pairs bred in the York area, and birds at two other sites in the breeding season. Two in a cliff-top hedge at Bempton on 11th June. Four at Spurn on 29th October, and one to four there from 11th to 15th November. Three at Burstwick on 20th and 21st December. Singles at about five other places mainly in the winter.

V.C. 62: A pair at a likely breeding locality east of Scarborough in June. Two breeding pairs at localities north of York. Singles at Long Nab on 12th and 27th September, and at Folkton Carr from 26th to 28th November.

V.C. 63: Four at Haw Park in January, and six roosting at Thorpe Marsh on 15th February. At least seven pairs bred, but two of the nests were plundered.

V.C. 64: One at Fairburn Ings from 22nd to 25th January and three at Tockwith on 3rd December.

V.C. 65: One hit by a car at Skeeby near Richmond.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

V.C. 61: No positive proof of breeding although birds were present at three probable breeding sites. Recorded at Spurn in every month except July, with nine on 29th October three of which came in off the sea, as did six at Filey Brigg on the same day. Widespread reports throughout the year, but particularly in the winter months.

V.C. 62: Five records in the Scarborough area between 31st March and 13th May, with singles at Strensall Common in April and December, and at Hutton-le-Hole on 14th May. One in off the sea at Scalby Mills on 29th October.

V.C. 63: At least five pairs bred on moorlands in the Huddersfield and Halifax areas, and one pair at Blacktoft Sands. Four at Thorpe Marsh on 8th February, and one to two at many lowland localities up to May, and from September.

V.C. 64: Breeding confirmed at four sites, and almost certainly at a fifth. Pairs at four other sites. As elsewhere was frequent in the lowlands up to late April, and from September, including three at Fairburn Ings on 29th April, where singles also present from 1st to 16th May, and on 18th July.

V.C. 65: Present at 11 moorland sites through the breeding season.

Tengmalm's Owl *Aegolius funereus*

One at Spurn Point from 6th to 27th March (CEA, PH, BRS, DP *et al*) had probably been present since 28th January. The first county record since 1901.

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

V.C. 61: Two pairs bred at Skipwith Common, one pair at Allerthorpe Common and one pair at a third site. Singles at Spurn on 8th May, Flamborough on 8th June and Nunnington on 19th.

V.C. 62: First one in Wykeham Forest on 16th May, where five pairs occupied territories in the breeding season. Bred at Silpho Moor, Strensall Common (three pairs), and two to three present at four other likely breeding sites.

V.C. 63: Up to three at a site in the Sheffield area. Present in good numbers on Hatfield Moors from 13th May to 12th September, and also on Thorne Moors, but no details received of the breeding populations.

V.C. 64: One on Ilkley Moor on 13th May.

Swift *Apus apus*

Singles at Fairburn Ings and Spurn on 23rd April, and at Wentworth and Flamborough, and two at Barnburgh on 24th. Up to three at twenty more places by 30th April, and good numbers in the county by 7th May, including 300 at Storwood.

200 to 400 at eight places on several dates in May and June, plus 800 in the Wath area on 22nd May; over 2,000 passing Fairburn Ings on 28th; 5,000 at Hornsea Mere on 29th; 4,000 at Spurn on 8th and 2,766 on 26th June, and 1,500 at Lundwood S.F. on 25th June.

High numbers at Spurn in early July, with 2,800 south on 3rd when 2,196 passed Flamborough, 700 over Wath and Broomhill on 5th August, 1,500 over Howell Woods near Doncaster on 9th August.

Late singles at Bretton Park on 30th September; Hornsea on 9th October, and Spurn on 7th and 11th.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

One over Millfield Lagoons, Horbury on 8th May (IB); one over Fairburn Ings on 9th June (JG, GRW, HJW, CW), and one south at Spurn on 19th July (BRS).

Accepted by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

One over Flamborough village on 10th July (PAL).

Not yet submitted to *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

V.C. 61: Four pairs bred near York, and probable breeding at four other sites.

V.C. 62: Bred at Duncombe Park and Hutton-le-Hole, with two to three on various dates at Seamer G.P., Costa Beck (Pickering) and Flixton Carr.

V.C. 63: Bred at eight sites, and recorded at more than 30 others.

V.C. 64: Appears to be flourishing and successful along the River Wharfe, with eight pairs rearing ten broods along one stretch of about 20 miles. Also breeding at Grassington and Fairburn. General indications of a complete recovery after the hard winters in recent years.

V.C. 65: Eight ringed at Catterick only one of which was an adult (RT). Breeding along the Rivers Swale and Ure.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

One at Fairburn Ings on 29th and 30th May (JG, NL, GRW *et al*).

One hawking along the canal at Spurn on 8th June (NCM).

Accepted by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

One on Commondale Moor west of Whitby on 17th May (MEB).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Again, as in 1982, a good influx during the spring. At Flamborough, singles on 14th and 30th April, 4th May and 8th June and two on 2nd May. One caught and ringed at Hazelwood, Bramham on 10th May (TD).

Two at Spurn between 21st and 24th April, then regularly in early May, with three to the 4th, two on 5th and 6th, and one on 7th and 10th.

During the autumn at Spurn only, with one on 22nd and 23rd August; three on 24th August, and one on 25th September.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

An increased number of records from the North Yorkshire Moors, including breeding at Farndale. Bred at Flamborough Head and Londesborough, and possibly at two other Wolds sites, and at seven localities near York.

Bred at eight sites in V.C. 63, and probably at five more. Widespread in V.C. 64, but no direct breeding evidence reported.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Widespread successful breeding throughout the county, and although still apparently less common in the east, at least three pairs bred at Hornsea Mere, and one at Market Weighton. 11 pairs bred near York, and 29 pairs bred in V.C. 63.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

An increased number of sightings and of breeding records. Present in Whitcliff Wood near Richmond. A pair in Duncombe Park near Helmsley. A male at Everingham was excavating on 24th April. One at Hornsea Mere from 17th August. Probably bred at Ampleforth and Newburgh, and occurred at six other places in the York area.

Bred at two sites in V.C. 63, and pairs were present at seven more sites. Bred at Bramham Park, and present at eight other sites near Leeds including Harewood Park, where a female contested a nest hole unsuccessfully with a female Great Spotted Woodpecker, *D. major*. Noted at five sites in the Harrogate area between March and August.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

One at Spurn on 25th May and one singing at Easington Lagoons on 29th May (SML). One found dead on the Humber shore at Spurn on 13th June.

Those of 25th May and 13th June accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee, and that of 29th May is still under consideration.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

One at Stone Creek on 8th May (SML). One singing at Blacktoft Sands on 25th May (AG).

Singles between Easington and Kilnsea on 2nd October (KR); at Flamborough on 21st October (SR), and again on 31st December (DGH), and at Spurn on 12th November.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Up to 250 in the Flamborough area and 150 on Sunk Island on 16th January, and 125 north at Wheldrake Ings on 30th. 200 at Brampton Common on 3rd February; 150 at Cawood on 8th; 156 at Thrybergh on 11th; and 200 at Carlton (Barnsley) and 100 at Wroot on 13th February.

Stated to be decreasing in parts of the Leeds area.

Southerly passage monthly maxima at Spurn of 265 on 25th September; 1,690 on 17th October, and 430 on 5th November; and 214 in off the sea on 29th October. Similar passage maxima at Flamborough of 580 on 5th, and 730 on 12th November, and 970 on 4th and 660 on 11th December.

Some southerly movement over Wharfedale, Nidderdale and Airedale in the autumn, with a peak of 267 on 5th November over Fairburn Ings.

430 at Thorngumbald on 27th November; 200 at Hatfield Moor on 3rd December, and at Pugney's G.P. on 10th.

A leucistic bird near Easington in late December, and a bright rufous brown individual at Cherry Cob on 22nd May (SML).

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Four at Easington on 6th April (SLJ).

One at Kilnsea on 30th September and 1st October.

At Spurn, four on 5th October; singles on 20th and 23rd; three on 2nd November; singles on 3rd and 23rd, and two on 30th November, and two on 10th December.

Three at Kilnsea on 12th November; six on 15th, and seven on 20th (NAB, DJS). One at Filey Brigg on 13th November (AB, TIC, JAP), and singles at Barmston on 19th November, 11th and 26th December (KR).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

One at Fairburn Ings on 17th March; four at Carlton Marsh and one at Altofts on 18th; two at Pugney's G.P. and one at Knotford Nook on 19th; and one at Bretton Park on 22nd March, then few until the beginning of April, with the main arrival from 6th to 16th April, and later waves in early May.

Peaks of 100 to 150 between mid April and mid May at Pugney's G.P., Knotford Nook, Hay-a-Park G.P. and Nosterfield G.P.; over 200 at Fairburn Ings from 9th April to 6th May, and at Blacktoft Sands in May, and 500 at Hornsea Mere on 8th May.

A colony of up to 270 pairs at Catterick Bridge, and 40 at Welbeck Sand Quarry. Breeding numbers in some areas were down on those of 1982.

Staveley, Pugney's G.P., Mickletown Ings, Leventhorpe, Knostrop S.F., Lundwood S.F., Humber Wildfowl Refuge and Hornsea Mere all had peaks of 200 to 500, mainly in August and early September. 720 at Spurn on 16th September, and 1,200 over Tophill Low Res. on 10th. 2,000 at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd August, and roosting at Allerton Bywater 1,000 in mid August, and at Fairburn Ings 1,500 on 24th August.

Late singles at Mickletown Ings on 11th October; Lundwood S.F. on 13th; Tophill Low Res. on 16th, and Anchor Plain (north of York) on 30th, and two at Spurn on 27th October.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Singles at Bretton Park and Bentley Tilts on 8th April; two each at Ossett, Tinsley S.F. and Dewsbury S.F. and one at Carlton Marsh on 9th; with small numbers at many sites up to 17th, including two over Blea Moor on 15th April, followed by a quick build-up in the next two weeks.

Maxima between 27th April and 10th May of 100 at Naburn; 800 at Pugney's G.P.; 400 at Fairburn Ings and Aughton Ings; 400 at Gouthwaite Res.; 150 at Bretton and 300 at Wintersett Res.

Passage peaks at Spurn of 1,000 on 17th May, and 1,073 on 2nd June.

A probable Swallow/House Martin hybrid at Wheldrake Ings on 20th May, and a leucistic bird at Commandale on 5th September.

Roost maxima of about 2,000 at Thorpe Marsh; Blacktoft Sands; Wintersett Res.; Mickletown Ings and 2,600 at Hornsea Mere, mainly in September. 4,000 at Broomhill Flash on 21st August; 5,000 at Carlton Marsh from 26th August to 3rd September, and at Altofts Ings; with much higher numbers at Fairburn Ings and Rockley on 23rd September of 40,000 and 30,000 respectively.

Southerly passage at Spurn from August to October totalled 28,599, with peaks on 15th and 16th September of 5,000 and 6,000.

Late singles in November at Blacktoft Sands and Coxley (near Wakefield) on 3rd; Burley-in-Wharfedale and Flamborough on 5th; Cusworth on 7th; Long Preston on 8th and two at Spurn on 10th.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

One each at Wentworth on 8th April; Thrybergh Res. on 9th; Bretton Park on 12th, and at Kilnsea, Hunmanby, Pool-in-Wharfedale and Settle on 16th, and then at many localities, with a steady increase in numbers from 17th to 26th April.

100 to 200 at eight places in V.C. 63, mostly near Wakefield, during May and 300 at Fairburn Ings on 28th May.

700 on 20th August and 600 on 10th September at Flamborough; 1,000 on 28th August at Hornsea Mere; 200 on 9th September at Scalby Mills included a white bird; 310 at Filey on 14th; 600 at Ravenscar on 18th and 500 between Knostrop and Leventhorpe on 20th September.

Movements in September included 400 west at Redmires Res. on 16th; 470 south in the Moss Valley on 17th; 500 south-west at Lundwood S.F. on 18th, and maxima at Spurn of 3,050 on 10th, 2,500 on 15th and 6,000 on 16th, all moving south.

Late singles on 5th November at Flamborough, Spurn, near Bubwith, and on 11th and 12th one at Birstwith.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

One south at Spurn on 9th October. One moving west between Paull and Cherry Cob on 16th October (SML). One at Flamborough on 22nd October (PAL, DGH).

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

One at Spurn on 23rd and 24th May (BRS et al.).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

First one at Sandal Beat on 9th April; one at Spurn on 11th; two at Flamborough and at York University, and one at Howell Wood on 12th April. A scattering in the rest of April, with some in the north of the county by 24th. The main influx took place in the first week of May.

Good breeding numbers in all parts of the county.

Late singles at Wilsic, Woolley Wood (Sheffield) and Fairburn Ings on 23rd September; at Pool Paper Mills on 29th; at Flamborough on 1st October and Spurn on 8th.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

A few flocks in the early months all of less than 100.

300 at Pugney's G.P. on 15th March, and a spring roost on Broomhead Moor built up from late March to 1,100 on 12th April.

Autumn flocks of 100 to 250 at eight inland sites between 20th September and 23rd October. Southerly passage noted at seven places during this period, with most over Concord Park, Sheffield, 795 on 2nd and 885 on 6th October.

Coastal passage peaked in mid-September, with 20,000 at Spurn and 560 at Flamborough on 13th; 998 at Withernsea (in 72 minutes), 650 at Flamborough, 200 at Long Nab and 160 at Cloughton Wyke on 14th; 662 at Withernsea on 15th and up to 300 at Burniston on 16th. Of those at Spurn on 13th September 413 were caught and ringed.

Winter flocks of 50 at Stanley S.F. and Nosterfield in December.

Rock Pipit *Anthus spinolella*

Recorded at 12 inland sites up to 8th March, and from 17th September, with no more than two at any locality, and approximately half the records were during October.

Bred along the coast from Flamborough northwards.

Double figure counts along the Humber on occasional dates in both the early and late months.

Birds showing characteristics of the Scandinavian race *A.s. littoralis* at Swillington on 23rd and 26th February; Flamborough on 17th, 23rd and 24th April; Bridlington on 12th March, and Sunk Island on 13th March; Spurn on 22nd (three) and 25th October and 4th November, and at Stanley S.F. from 28th to 30th December.

Singles showing characteristics of Water Pipit, *A.s. spinolella* at Morley's Pool, Settle on 16th March (BS), and at Spurn on 9th and 10th April.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Two at Tophill Low Res. on 5th April, with singles seven days later at Bretton Park, Wath Ings and Harrogate S.F. At Pool Paper Mills two on 13th April, one at Spurn and five at Wheldrake Ings on 15th; ten at Naburn on 16th, and at many other places from that date, with higher numbers at the month end.

50 at Fairburn Ings on 21st April; 51 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 22nd; 45 at Harrogate S.F. on 24th; 44 at Flamborough on 29th and 58 at Spurn on 2nd May.

Widespread breeding records, with more than usual from the northern Dales.

Tophill Low Res. had over 50 during August and on the banks of the River Hull nearby; 120 on 18th and 100 on 28th August. At Wath Ings 145 on 22nd August and 160 on 6th September. Other maxima included 64 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 5th September and 60 at Hobmoor, York on 14th September.

Four at Warmworth on 9th October, and ten at Hobmoor on 10th.

Birds showing characteristics of the Blue-headed race, *M.f. flava* at 12 localities, mostly between 16th April and 19th May, but a few were later, including females at Tophill Low Res. carrying food on 20th June and 7th July.

Birds showing characteristics of the Ashy-headed race, *M.f. cinereocapilla*, at Thrybergh Res. on 17th April (AR, DL); at Spurn on 3rd May, and at Filey Brigg on 2nd and 3rd June (PJD, SC, HJW).

A male showing characteristics of the Grey-headed race, *M.f. thunbergi* at Flamborough on 19th and 20th May, and a female on 26th June (AMA, DGH, PAL).

One showing characteristics of Sykes's Wagtail, *M.f. beema*, at Spurn on 3rd May, and a male at Flamborough on 6th May with four females that were probably of this race (DIMW).

Addition to the 1982 Report: One at Swinton S.F. during January.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

No actual proof of breeding from V.C. 61, although quite widespread in small numbers in that area during the winter and passage periods. 16 south at Spurn on 10th October.

An encouraging increase in the number of breeding records received particularly from V.C. 65, but also from V.C. 62. Six at Pickering on 29th October.

Numbers still below normal in the Settle area. Seven at Lindley Wood Res. on 20th May; 22 south-west over Gawber, Barnsley at dusk on 7th October, and nine roosted at Bretton Park in December.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

130 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 1st January. The largest roosts in the early months were 160 at Tophill Low Res. on 6th January; 120 at Pulsin Bog on 13th February; 200 on the Harrogate District Hospital on 17th February and 144 on Huddersfield Civic Centre on 21st March.

80 on playing fields at a Settle school on 25th September and 6th October, and roosting on Ilkley Moor on 17th October, and 100 at Nosterfield in August and September.

Late autumn and winter roosts in excess of 100 were at Potteric Carr 150 on 4th October; Huddersfield Civic Centre 122 on 17th October; Wykeham near Scarborough 275 on 22nd October; Brookhouse, Sheffield 135 on 15th November; Cusworth Park up to 250 in December and Tophill Low Res. 110 on 18th December.

Birds showing characteristics of White Wagtail, *M.a. alba* at no fewer than 40 localities, including seven at Barmston on 26th March; eight at Flamborough on 20th April and nine at Pugney's G.P. on 4th May, all but four autumn records being between the above dates.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Two off Skipton Road, Harrogate on 24th January (GTF). One at Stainforth near Settle on 25th April (SR), and one at Crosscliffe, Scarborough on 9th April (MW).

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

From V.C. 61 reports of singles only at Settrington and Lowthorpe.

An apparently healthy breeding situation in the North Yorkshire Moors, the Dales and the Southern Pennines, although a further decline in the Leeds area. 21 counted during a winter census on the River Ure between Glasshouses and Pyefield.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

A slight increase in the populations in the Huddersfield and Leeds areas, and a more substantial recovery in the Wakefield and Doncaster areas. Appears to be increasing in V.C. 61 particularly at Hornsea Mere where 106 singing males were located.

Occurs at sites over 1,400 feet above sea level in some areas.

Some evidence of passage during October, when numbers at Spurn were at their highest. 16 on Thorne Moors on 29th October, and over 35 at Anchor Plain on 2nd and 6th October.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

No apparent change in status, but several counts of good numbers received as follows: 35 at Potteric Carr on 3rd March; 40 at Sprotbrough Flash from March to May; 60 at Wilsic on 6th March and at Roche Abbey on 14th May; 27 at Fairburn Ings on 13th October and 25 at Flamborough on 11th November.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

A good influx in late September, with on 29th 85 at Flamborough and 50 at Spurn. Flamborough had 145 on 30th September and 245 on 1st October. At Spurn 250 on 30th September declining to 100 by 4th October and 50 on 5th. Several inland sites had increased numbers particularly Hatfield Moor, with 47 on 9th October and Fairburn Ings, with 25 on 27th October.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*

A male caught at Flamborough on 5th June (AMA, DGH, PAL, JCL, AS). Not yet submitted to *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Singles (probably the same bird) at Kilnsea from 30th April to 2nd May and on 4th May. Singles at Flamborough on 4th May and 22nd June, and one found dead on 14th June (PAL *et al.*).

A singing male in the Sprotbrough area on 23rd and 24th April, and birds on Hatfield Moor, where one pair bred, from 30th April to at least 10th June (three). Present on Thorne Moors from 26th April to 11th June, including nine on 4th May.

Correction to the 1982 Report: Second sentence should read 'Two males and one female on Hatfield Moors between April 26th and 2nd July.'

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

At Flamborough a male from 25th to 28th May, and a female on 29th May, and a first-winter male on 12th September (AMA, DGH, PAL, JMP, NAP).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

A male at Heeley, Sheffield in January and February and one at Bentley Common on 8th March. At Spurn one on 6th, 20th and 27th February, and two on 13th. One in the Hull Docks area on 13th February.

A widespread influx from 20th March, with one at Spurn on that date, and regularly there up to 8th May, and also on 21st and 22nd May (three) and 4th June, with a maximum of seven in mid April.

Occurred along the coast from 25th March on various dates to early May, with singles at the following places: Barmston, Flamborough, Filey Brigg, Long Nab (Burniston) and Castle Hill, Scarborough. Maxima of five each at Flamborough (2nd April), and Filey Brigg (9th April). Singles inland during this period at Tophill Low Res., Stamford Bridge, Everingham, Sunk Island, Leeds, Hay-a-Park, Knaresborough Ringing Station, Thrybergh Res., Booth Dean Quarry (Ripponden), Potteric Carr, Treeton Dyke and Greengates, Bradford.

A pair raised three young near Filey. Four pairs bred in Sheffield.

One at Drax Power Station on 2nd June. Four at Flamborough on 28th May. One near Settle on 2nd August. One at Spurn on 20th, 21st and 30th July.

Typical autumn records, with birds present for odd days only at Flamborough in September and October, and Spurn in October and November; and singles at Filey on 4th and Scarborough on 14th November.

Additions to the 1982 Report: Singles at Cawood on 4th September; at another Harrogate site on 29th October, and at Bentley Common on 3rd November.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

One at Hepworth south of Huddersfield on 12th April; then on 16th April singles at Wath Ings, Fulneck (Pudsey), Ripon Parks and Spurn, and on 17th at Elsecar, Kexby, Wintersett Res., Pugney's G.P. and Filey Brigg, and four at Flamborough. Had reached the north of the county by the month-end, and was widespread in breeding localities by early May. 12 in Bolton Abbey Woods on 6th May.

Remains widespread but not common in suitable breeding habitats.

Some coastal passage evident, with on 29th September four at Filey Brigg; 24 at Flamborough and 15 at Spurn; on 30th nine each at Flamborough and Spurn, and two at Scarborough; on 1st October, nine at Flamborough and 40 at Spurn, with 13 there on 2nd, and last one on 30th October.

Inland, late singles at Thorpe Marsh on 11th and Wath Ings on 15th October.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

First arrivals on 16th April, of two at Ilkley Moor and singles at Spurn and Sprotbrough Flash; then on 17th one at Potteric Carr, with a steady influx from 21st April into early May. Ten at Spurn on 6th May, and seven on Hatfield Moor on 8th.

Good numbers again in the North Yorkshire Moors, the Wolds and the Southern Pennines, but considered to be scarcer in the central Dales (Harrogate and Settle areas), although widespread in Wensleydale and Swaledale. Declining on Thorne Moors.

Coastal passage much in evidence at Spurn, with 46 on 24th August and 51 on 27th, then 49 on 1st September, and at Flamborough 34 on 25th August and 15 on 23rd September.

15 at Clifton Airfield, York on 11th September, and at Pugney's G.P. on 12th, and 13 at Fairburn Ings on 16th, with smaller parties widespread at other places in mid September.

Five records in October before the 15th when one at High Trenthouse, Settle then singles at Fairburn Ings on 17th and 24th; at Spurn on several dates from 20th October to 5th November, and a very late male at Carlton Marsh until 14th November.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

V.C. 61: One to two at Cowden in both winters. A light spring passage from 13th March (one at Kilnsea) to 15th April (one at Spurn), and singles at Flamborough on 4th May and Spurn on 2nd June.

More during the autumn, with one to two at Flamborough on eight dates between 22nd September and 20th October; one to six at Spurn on 26 dates between 25th September and 23rd October, and one at Filey on seven occasions from 11th October to 13th November.

Four at Everingham on 26th October.

V.C. 62: Single pairs breeding at Egton Bridge, Fen Bog near Goathland, and at Helwath Beck near Harwood Dale (MD).

V.C. 63: At Blacktoft Sands two up to 14th February, with one remaining to 5th March. Singles at Thrybergh Res. on 2nd January; Newington on 22nd; Thorpe Marsh in January and February; at Marley S.F. on 13th February, and Walshaw Dene on 10th March.

Two on Harden Moor on 26th July.

One at Stanley S.F. on 18th and 19th August and one at South Kirkby on 25th September. Singles during October at Thorne, Scammonden Valley, Blacktoft Sands, Grimescar Valley (Huddersfield), Thrybergh Res. and Bolton Common. Three at Thorpe Marsh from 24th October onwards; two at Widdop on 29th October and 20th November, and two at Potteric Carr on 6th November. Three on Howden Moors in November and two in December.

V.C. 64: Three on Hawksworth Moor on 17th January and one at Ramsgill on 8th March. Singles at Adel on 2nd October and at Lofthouse Moor on 22nd. At Fairburn Ings a male on 12th November, and a female from 19th to 21st November and on 3rd and 4th December. Three on Blubberhouses Moor on 2nd December.

V.C. 65: Singles near Catterick and Brompton-on-Swale.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Some quite early singles particularly those on Sutton Moor on 9th March; at Spurn on 13th and 15th; at Rathmell and on Thorne Moors on 14th. Singles at Treeton Dyke on 18th; Wath Ings and Sewerby on 19th, and on 20th six at Spurn and five at Broadstones, Ingbirchworth, with steadily increasing numbers into April.

A good coastal passage in mid April, with on 16th 80 at Spurn; 50 at Atwick; 72 at Flamborough and 35 at Filey, and on 17th, 53, 50, 200 and 40 respectively at those places, and in the Scarborough area 20 at Long Nab and 12 on Castle Hill, 48 at Flamborough on 2nd May, and 40 at Spurn on 14th.

Inland localities also had a marked passage, with on 17th April 24 at Broadstones and 42 at Potteric Carr; on 21st 14 at Fairburn; on 22nd 19 at Thorpe Marsh, and on 23rd 33 at Wath Ings, 12 at Low Barugh and 37 at Clifton Airfield.

Birds probably of the Greenland race, *O.o. leucorrhoa* during May at Spurn, Flamborough, Thrybergh Res., Ringstone Edge Res., Whitley Common and Broadstones (both near Ingbirchworth), Mickletown Ings, and a few sites in V.C. 64.

Breeding birds well distributed in most upland localities.

In contrast to the spring the autumn passage was light, with parties of 12 at Ringstone Edge on 6th August, and ten on Ilkley Moor on 13th, probably of locally bred birds, and peaks of only 22 at Flamborough and 43 at Spurn in late August, and 11 at Filey on 21st September.

Late singles at Pugney's G.P. and Thrybergh Res. on 19th October; at Breighton (two) on 21st; Helwith Bridge on 23rd; Roundhill Res. on 28th; Spurn on 30th October, and at Hayburn Wyke on 6th November.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

The early arrivals were all at inland sites, being at Walshaw on 19th March and Luddenden Dean on 20th; Digley and the Little Don Valley (two) on 26th March. A slow distribution from early April, with birds near Harrogate on 1st April; at Ingleton and Great Fryupdale on 3rd, reaching the northern parts of the county by the third week of the month. Ten at Digley on 5th April.

Several waves of arrivals noted at coastal sites from 9th April to 2nd May, producing maxima of four on 11th, and seven on 23rd April at Spurn; six on 10th, 14 on 20th, 13 on 23rd and nine on 29th April at Flamborough; five on 23rd April and eight on 1st May at Filey, also six at Ravenscar on 24th April.

A good distribution of breeding pairs in the North Yorkshire Moors, the Dales (six pairs on Barden Moor) and the Southern Pennines (16 pairs in the Widdop area).

Had apparently left the breeding areas by late September and passed through the coastal sites by 2nd October.

An exception was one in the Harrogate area on 7th October.

A late influx into the county was probably responsible (as in 1976) for an unusual number of late records.

Two at Flamborough on 24th and 29th October; one at Spurn on 11th and 13th November, and one at Filey on 13th. A male at Kettlethorpe near Wakefield on 5th November. A male also at Aughton on 2nd November, and possibly the same one at Hagg Bridge near York on 22nd, 27th, 30th November and 7th December.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Apart from 150 in the Headingley roost on 5th February, only flocks of about 110 each on 6th March at Wilsic and Tickhill near Doncaster, exceeded 100.

More than 20 inland sites had 50 to 100 from late October onwards. Autumn maxima of about 100, mostly in November, at Carlton Marsh, Wath Ings, Aughton, Hobmoor (York), Buckden, and 150 at Headingley on 17th November, and Anchor Plain on 4th December.

A good influx at coastal localities on 11th November, with birds coming in all day at Scarborough; 100 at Filey; 2,250 at Flamborough and 1,200 at Spurn. On 12th November,

over 200 at Castle Hill, Scarborough; 300 at Cornelian Bay; 378 at Filey; 1,200 at Flamborough, and 1,300 at Spurn.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Good numbers in the early months, with flocks of 100 to 500 at about 30 localities particularly in January. Many had moved out during severe weather so fewer remained during February, but with return movements in March and April numbers increased again. 700 at Frickley Park and Ulley on 1st January; 2,600 east over Ardsley (Barnsley) on 5th; 550 in the Wath area on 9th; 1,000 at Shelley Woodhouse on 23rd January, then in February the largest flocks were 300 each at Sawdon and Bickley in the Scarborough area. 800 at Settle on 14th March after which 300 to 400 at six places.

100 at Wansford on 4th May, with smaller numbers at ten sites up to 14th May, and one at Hornsea on 20th.

Recorded in every month at Spurn. Singles at Flamborough on 12th and Wheldrake on 28th June.

An adult with two juveniles at one locality in mid August.

Occurred in August at 17 places, six of these being on 20th when a small influx took place, Spurn having 19. Further early arrivals during September but then relatively few during October.

The first major influx was late, with on 5th November 365 at Flamborough and 120 at Spurn. On 11th November, 286 at Flamborough; 50 at Filey and 150 at Spurn, and on 12th 750, 111 and 500 respectively at these places, and 235 at Scarborough.

A second influx in December with on 17th and 18th, 280 and 475 at Flamborough, and 219 and 377 at Spurn, and 470 there on 21st December.

Inland, 1,595 west over Knaresborough Ringing Station; 2,000 over Oughtibridge; 500 at Sprotbrough and 275 at Carlton (Barnsley) on 29th October, and during the first week of November flocks of 100 to 400 at four places, and 532 at Fairburn Ings. On 13th November 500 at Tophill Low Res., and on 14th 1,400 in the Wath and Broomhill area.

Considerable movement to the west during December included 1,440 at Swillington Park; 720 at Thrybergh Res.; 800 at Wintersett Res., 470 at Wath, 720 at Fairburn Ings and 500 over the Huddersfield area.

Flocks in late December of 1,685 at Acklam, 400 at North Duffield and 540 at Fairburn Ings on 22nd; 850 at Bramhope on 25th; 600 near Harrogate on 26th and 800 at Threshfield on 31st.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

An autumn influx witnessed at a few coastal localities followed by an increase at inland sites. 70 at Spurn on 30th September, and 100 on 1st October, when 175 at Flamborough, and 44 between Welwick and Paull on 2nd October.

40 arrived at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 12th November with other thrush species.

Flocks, all of about 20, on Hatfield Moor on 9th October; Sprotbrough Flash on 21st; East Keswick on 2nd November; Stainborough on 19th November and Wath on 2nd December, and 35 at Fairburn Ings on 27th October.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Flocks of 100 to 200 at four places in January and two in February. In excess of these numbers 400 at Askham Bog on 1st January; 2,000 roosting at Lundwood S.F. on 9th January; 470 at Ossett Spa S.F. on 8th February; 500 at Sprotbrough on 12th, and 500 at Knotford Nook on 16th February, after which date quite scarce until return movements late in March and into April the highest count being 268 east over Hall Dike, Huddersfield on 24th March.

Few after the beginning of April, and only two singles in May apart from at Spurn one to four on ten dates up to 7th June, and at Flamborough (one 23rd May, two 7th June).

Eight at Thrybergh Res. on 6th September, then small numbers at six other places during September including 20 west over Anchor Plain on 25th, and 100 at Spurn on 30th.

The only high numbers before the end of October were at Spurn, with 225 on 7th, 750 on 9th and 230 on 20th. On 23rd October 1,812 west over Blackmoorfoot Res. and 1,038

west over Hall Dike, Huddersfield; on 29th October 1,200 west over Oughtibridge, and on 29th and 30th, 447 west over Knaresborough Ringing Station, and smaller numbers moving at other localities.

A more substantial influx in early November, with at Flamborough 560 on 3rd, 850 on 5th, 1,200 on 11th and 900 on 12th, and at Spurn up to 300 on some days and 1,200 on 12th. Larger flocks inland after these dates, included 600 at Parlington Park, Leeds; 350 at Bank Island (near York) on 12th; 400 at Stainborough on 19th, and during December three flocks of over 200 near York; 300 south at Mickletown Ings on 18th, and 330 at Almondbury, Huddersfield on 28th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Rather unusual for January were flocks of 20 at Sugarwell Hill, Leeds on 11th, and 40 at Higham, Barnsley on 23rd.

Flocks of over 30 at five places in the late summer, with one of 45 at Wilsic near Doncaster on 28th August, 45 in a Halifax park on 22nd October; 33 at Fairburn Ings on 27th, and 50 at Otley Chevin in late October, and early November.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Correction to the 1982 Report: The one at Blacktoft Sands was the third record for the county.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

First singles at Thorne Moors on 22nd April; Staveley and Carlton Marsh on 23rd; Haverfield Ponds on 24th; Mickletown Ings and Flamborough on 25th, and at Blacktoft Sands on 28th, and at about five more places by the beginning of May.

Only Carlton Marsh (two), Blacktoft Sands (three), Breighton Airfield (one), and Cowden had singing males regularly, and for continuous periods. Generally a very poor year, with up to ten sites, where breeding has been annual recently, having only occasional isolated records. Particularly poor in the York area, in V.C. 64, and much of V.C. 63.

One at Tophill Low Res. on 4th September, and one at Spurn on 17th September.

Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*

One at Kilnsea on 10th August (GR & HJW).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

The first at Blacktoft Sands on 16th April; then singles at Hornsea Mere, Wheldrake Ings, Fairburn Ings, Potteric Carr and Thrybergh Res. on 17th; at Tophill Low Res. on 18th, and at a few more sites from 23rd April, with the main influx during the first week of May.

Most of the breeding sites that hold considerable concentrations showed a decrease on 1982 numbers. These included, Hornsea Mere 50 pairs; Tophill Low Res. 30 to 40 pairs; Wheldrake Ings 20 pairs; Blacktoft Sands 70 pairs; Fairburn Ings 20 pairs and the Wath Ings area 15 pairs, whilst singing males numbered 15 at Mickletown Ings and Wintersett Res., and 18 at Haverfield Ponds.

Two at Carlton Marsh on 27th September, and singles at Leventhorpe on 29th September, and at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd October, and Filey Brigg on 3rd.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

One at Spurn on 1st and 2nd June.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

The first at Blacktoft Sands on 21st April, then singles at Hornsea Mere, Mickletown Ings, Fairburn Ings and Worsbrough Res. on 23rd, and at Strensall and Tophill Low Res. on 25th.

An estimated population of 400 pairs at Blacktoft Sands, 25 pairs at Mickletown Ings; 12 pairs at Fairburn Ings; ten pairs at Wheldrake Ings, and 14 singing males at Haverfield

Ponds, and 13 at Wintersett Res. Three pairs bred at Hay-a-Park G.P. One pair bred at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough and another male was singing on 16th July.

Singles at Hay-a-Park on 30th September; at Haverfield Ponds on 2nd October and at Spurn on 10th October. Regularly at Blacktoft Sands until 15th October, then one very late on 4th November, and one at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 20th October.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Two singing at Flamborough on 2nd June (AMA, DGH), and one there on 4th June (PAL).

During August four at Flamborough on 11th, and singles on 20th, 21st and 26th (PAL *et al*); at Spurn on 20th and another on 21st and 22nd; at Kilnsea on 22nd, and from 27th August to 1st September (SHH), and on 4th September. Singles at Filey Brigg on 1st September (MJG *et al*), and at Spurn on 6th.

Inland, one at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 3rd September (PTT).

Singles at Flamborough on 13th, 14th and 25th September and 2nd October, and at Kilnsea on 29th September (GR & HJW).

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

One at Flamborough on 28th May (PAL), and one on 4th and 5th September (AMA, DGH, JH *et al*).

Third and fourth records for Flamborough and the county.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Singles at Spurn on 21st, 23rd and 27th August; at Filey Brigg on 23rd, and at Kilnsea on 23rd and 27th August.

At Flamborough, singles on 27th August, 14th, 25th and 30th September, 1st and 11th October.

One at Hornsea Mere on 9th, and one at Spurn on 22nd October.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

The first at Fairburn Ings on 16th April, and next at Thrybergh Res. on 18th, then singles at Burley-in-Wharfedale and Wintersett Res. on 20th, and at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 21st. The main arrival between 23rd April and 10th May.

Although breeding proof is not always easy to obtain it would appear to be increasing and extending northwards. One to two in May at six sites in the Scarborough area, and one at Sleightholmedale on 3rd July. A pair bred at Catterick village, and a male sang at Newsham north of Richmond on 6th June.

Breeding at several places in Holderness; at many sites in the York area (mainly south and east of the city); well distributed in V.C. 63 away from the hills, and widespread in lowland localities away from the Dales in V.C. 64. 11 at Fairburn Ings on 5th May.

A marked autumn movement at Anchor Plain, York from July to September, with a maximum of 30 on 28th August. Seven at Parlington Park on 27th August, and nine at Wintersett Res. on 17th.

Singles at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 25th, and Naburn S.W. on 26th September; at Adel on 1st October; at Carlton Marsh on 3rd October, and at Flamborough on 21st and 25th October.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Singles at Flamborough on 17th April; Wath Ings on 18th; Thrybergh Res. and Grange Estate, Rotherham on 19th; and at Hagg Bridge near York on 21st, and increased numbers at a further 15 places by 24th April, and a continuing influx to the first week of May.

A varied picture of breeding distribution. Extremely scarce in V.C. 65, and much of V.C. 62 north of the York area: good numbers in parts of V.C. 61; still declining in the Settle area, but increases in the populations of the Leeds, Wakefield and Doncaster areas.

50 at Anchor Plain on 10th July, and 60 on 25th July.

The majority left by mid September, but singles during October at Filey and Spurn on 2nd, Carlton Marsh on 3rd and Flamborough on 8th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

First at Millfield Lane, York on 21st April; at Spurn on 23rd; at Healaugh, Potteric Carr and Sprotbrough on 24th April, and at only four other places before 1st May after which a steady influx continued for two weeks.

The breeding status generally appeared to be unchanged.

One ringed at Catterick on 17/5/81 retrapped on 15/5/82 and 22/5/83.

One at Pool Paper Mills on 29th September; two at Flamborough on 1st October, and regularly at Spurn in October, with the last on 21st.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

At least 100 wintered, with records of one to three at 68 localities between January and March. These were located throughout the county from Sheffield and Spurn in the south, to Scarborough and Catterick in the north.

A scattering of birds in early April may have included some of the above as the main influx took place from 15th April to 7th May.

Coastal passage was light, with 22 at Flamborough and 12 at Spurn on 30th September. Good numbers at Anchor Plain near York, with 40 on 10th and 60 on 24th July; 62 on 28th August, and 20 on 6th September.

Nine at Spurn on 12th November; two at Filey and three at Flamborough on 13th. One to two at nine places in November and December; four ringed at Adwick-le-Street on 6th November, and four others there on 27th November.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

One at Flamborough on 6th May (DIMW).

Not yet submitted to *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

One at Flamborough on 4th September (AMA, DGH, PAL, DIMW *et al*).

Not yet submitted to *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Singles at Flamborough on 29th September (PAD *et al*), and 16th and 17th October (PAL), and two on 11th November (PAL, DR).

One at Easington from 22nd to 24th October (PAD, MGN).

One at Spurn on 12th November (AJL).

Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*

One in an orchard at Holme upon Spalding Moor on 21st May (DIMW).

Not yet submitted to *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Singles at Swillington Park on 21st April; Fairburn Ings and Birstwith on 22nd; Thundercliffe (Sheffield) on 24th, and at Bretton Park and Woolley Wood on 26th April, with more in the next week at the last two sites, but otherwise the main influx from 4th to 15th May.

Widespread in the breeding season in the wooded valleys of the North Yorkshire Moors and parts of the Dales, but scarcer in the Southern Pennines.

Few after 12th August; the last at Fairburn Ings on 1st September.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Wintering singles at six places in January, and five in February. Several in early March, with two at Oughtibridge, and one at Tinsley S.F. on 1st; one at Wilsic on 6th; singles at Wintersett and Welwick, and two at Bretton Park on 13th.

A normal breeding season in most areas.

Singles at six places in November and three in December, with two in Parlington Park, Leeds.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

One at Filey Brigg on 1st April; singles at Fairburn Ings and Almsford Bank (near Harrogate) on 3rd; two at Wintersett Res. and singles at Bretton Park and Tophill Low Res. on 5th, and at Pugney's G.P. and Wadworth Wood on 6th. The main arrival commenced on 15th April and continued to the month end. 180 at Flamborough and 70 at Spurn on 17th April, and 90 at Anchor Plain on 24th.

Autumn passage was light along the coast, with 62 at Flamborough on 11th August as maximum. High counts inland included 200 at Adwick-le-Street S.F. on 10th August; 100 at Anchor Plain on 7th August and 75 on 21st August, when half-hour counts of birds moving east and south-east at Wath Ings and Potteric Carr totalled 50 and 300 respectively. Two caught at Catterick were retraps from 1981.

Many remained until the third week of September, and the last singles in October at Tinsley S.F. on 18th; Fairburn Ings on 20th; Spurn on 21st and Adel Dam on 24th.

Birds probably of the race *P.t. acreedula* at Flamborough on seven dates between 6th May (14) and 2nd June (PAL *et al.*).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Apart from 67 at Eccup Res. on 6th January and 50 in the Lower Moss Valley on 13th, numbers in the early months were low.

A large autumn influx on the coast particularly in late September, and again in early November.

At Spurn, 110 on 29th September, and 1,500 on 30th; 600 on 1st and 2nd October; 400 on 18th, and 200 on 29th, and 85 on 12th November. Flamborough had 216 on 29th September and 760 on 30th; 2,000 on 1st October, and 335 on 11th November. Peaks at Filey of 180 on 1st October, and 50 on 12th November, and at Castle Hill, Scarborough of up to 200 on 30th September, 50 on 28th October and 70 on 12th November.

Good numbers (20 to 40) at many inland localities following these influxes, in particular 100 at Tophill Low Res. on 28th September; 80 at Eccup Res. on 10th October; 100 at Otley Chevin on 8th December, and 150 on 11th and 18th December.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

One at Woolley Wood, Sheffield on 15th March and 25th April (JPS), and singles near Doncaster at Howell Wood on 8th April (KR) and Bessacarr from 9th to 14th April (JMB, LD).

At Spurn, one on 20th March; singles on eight dates from 7th to 30th April plus three on 17th April, and at nearby Kilnsea one to two on 10th, 15th and 16th April (SG, SLJ), and singles on 24th April and 7th May. Two at Easington on 10th April (KR).

At Flamborough, one on 26th March; singles on five dates from 8th to 30th April; on 2nd, 7th and 24th May, and two on 4th and 22nd May. Three at Filey on 16th April (WAC *et al.*) and singles at Wassand on 17th April (EWC), and Bempton on 8th May (DJR).

Singles, at Spurn on 1st October, and from 2nd to 7th; at Kilnsea on 3rd and from 9th to 18th October, and two on 2nd October; at Flamborough on 2nd and 17th October, and from 11th to 14th November, and two on 3rd November (PAL, DIMW *et al.*).

Singles, at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 14th November (JP); at Anchor Plain, York on 20th November (RAI *et al.*), and at Thorpe Marsh on 26th December (AH).

Correction to the 1982 Report: Delete 'One at Sawdon on 6th April (MFr)'.

Addition to the 1982 Report: One at Catcliffe on 4th and 5th December.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

An exceptionally early one at Frickley Park on 9th April (JF). One at Flamborough on 23rd April. Singles at Roecliffe (Harrogate) and Fairburn Ings on 30th April. On 1st May

singles at Winkersley Wood and Bretton Park followed by a few widespread records during the next week, with birds near Scarborough and Richmond by 7th May.

12 at Filey on 28th May; 44 on 28th, 52 on 29th and 30 on 30th May at Flamborough, and 17 at Spurn on 1st June.

Breeding status reported as normal in most areas.

20 in Frickley Park on 21st August.

Late singles at Concord Park, Sheffield on 1st October; Adel Dam on 2nd; Moorgate, Rotherham on 3rd; Flamborough on 8th; Spurn on 11th, and two there on 24th October.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

A female at Spurn on 23rd and 25th May.

One at Flamborough on 21st September; two on 29th September, and one on 11th November (PAD, PAL).

Singles at Spurn on 29th September, 2nd October, 21st and 22nd October, and 29th October.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

One at Flamborough on 17th April; singles at Stackhouse (Settle), and Spurn on 19th; at Howell Wood on 21st; at Bempton on 22nd; at Atwick and Scarborough on 23rd and at Folly Hall Wood on 24th April, with many at other places by the month end, including eight at Sleightholmedale on 30th. Nine at Flamborough on 2nd May.

Five males singing in Strid Wood on 15th May; seven pairs produced 40 young in Folly Hall Wood (Washburn); bred in Whitcliffe Wood (Swaledale); one pair bred near Huddersfield; and pairs at Duncombe Park, Farndale, Sleightholmedale and Bransdale.

32 at Spurn; 52 at Flamborough and 14 at Filey on 20th August; 20 at Spurn on 1st September, and one on 3rd October. One at Filey on 1st October, and four at Flamborough on 1st and 2nd.

Few inland after early August, thus singles at Woolley Wood on 5th and Ackworth Grange on 15th September were unusual.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

About 200 at Blacktoft Sands during the early months; about 90 pairs bred, but had few successes with the first broods. Subsequent broods, however, raised the population to about 1,000 by autumn, and after eruptive behaviour started on 11th September about 300 remained in early November (AG).

V.C. 61: One pair raised two broods at one site, and a pair were at another in early April. Small numbers at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge early in the year but more in autumn, with 24 on 25th September; 44 on 21st October then up to 20 to early November, and up to ten to the year end. 13 at Patrington Haven on 2nd October; eight at Wheldrake Ings on 26th September; 11 at Tophill Low Res. on 21st October and smaller numbers at two of these sites, and four others, mostly during the autumn. At Flamborough on many days from 21st October (eight) to 3rd December, with usually one to three.

V.C. 63: Away from Blacktoft Sands, three at Potteric Carr on 7th February, and one on 6th March, and one at Wintersett Res. on 29th October.

V.C. 64: Two at Mickletown Ings on 30th March; one at Hay-a-Park from 1st to 3rd April; one at Staveley on 14th; one at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 16th April and three on 20th October, and two at Hay-a-Park on 30th October.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Over 40 on Hatfield Moors up to March, and flocks of over 20 at Wintersett, Hornsea and Broomhead in January; at Hall Dike in February and Dean Wood in March (both near Huddersfield).

46 in Bretton Park on 26th June. Flocks of 20 to 30 at Wintersett, Tophill Low, Potteric Carr, Kettlewell and several other places in July and August, and 44 at Bishop Monkton on 10th July indicate a good breeding season.

Autumn flocks of 50 at Otley Chevin and Lindley Wood on 28th September; 40 at Fairburn Ings on 20th October; 65 at Anchor Plain on 30th October, and 90 in Parlington Park during October, and during December, 70 at Askham Bog on 4th and 40 at Roundhay on 17th.

21 at Spurn on 24th October, and 44 at Flamborough on 29th.

12 caught in one net at Catterick on 6th November.

One showing the characteristics of the race *A.c. europaeus* at Flamborough on 9th October (DIMW).

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Singles at three sites in V.C. 61. In the York area 12 at Gill Wood on 9th January; ten at Anchor Plain on 28th August and six on 25th September, and ten near Newburgh Priory on 13th November. One to two on single dates at five places in the south of V.C. 63, and bred at Wilsic (one pair), and Roche Abbey.

Most frequent in the eastern parts of V.C. 64 but also present in the Dales. Noted at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 42 dates, compared with 16 dates for Willow Tit, *P. montanus*.

The only record from V.C. 65 was of two caught at Catterick (RT).

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Although occurred in V.C. 61 more widely (nine localities) than the previous species, the only report of breeding was at Hunmanby.

20 on Hatfield Moors on 23rd January, and 25 at Potteric Carr on 13th February.

Parties of seven to eight in the late summer and early autumn at several places in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64, and 16 on Thorne Moors on 28th August, and 15 on Anchor Plain on 4th September.

Two caught at Catterick.

One showing characteristics of the race *P.m. borealis* at Ripon on 26th March (CS).

Addition to the 1982 Report: 50 on Hatfield Moors on 29th September.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Most flocks reported were of 30 or less, the exceptions being 50 in the Lower Moss Valley on 13th January; 40 in Broomhead Woods on 17th February; 40 at Averhams Plantation (York area) on 21st September, and 35 at Eccup Res. on 10th October.

A few of those at Flamborough during the autumn showed characteristics of the race *P.a. ater*.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Flocks in the early months were not large; the only ones of about 100 were at Roundhay Park and Arthington Hall in January, and Hall Dike (Huddersfield) in February.

Over 100 on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 28th October, but autumn maxima of only 50 at Flamborough and Spurn.

100 at Bretton Park on 24th August and 80 at Anchor Plain on 25th September.

Great Tit *Parus major*

46 at Hall Dike, Huddersfield on 15th February; 40 at Potteric Carr on 24th July, and 50 at Howell Wood near Doncaster in the autumn.

Over 40 on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 28th October.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Status in V.C. 63 is apparently still fluctuating with a healthy increase in records from Sheffield, and to a lesser extent from Wakefield, but other sites were not occupied and reports not received from some areas.

Continues to increase in parts of V.C. 64 particularly in the Settle area (over ten pairs), and Leeds area (at least 18 pairs). Becoming a more frequent visitor to suburban gardens in Leeds and Harrogate. Occurred at Richmond in V.C. 65.

Singles at four places in and near York.

Singes at three places in V.C. 62, and three pairs in Slingsby Bank Wood on 6th March, and eight individuals at Duncombe Park, Helmsley on 14th June.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Breeding situation satisfactory in all parts of the county.

Birds showing the characteristics of the race *C.f. familiaris* near Lindley Res. on 10th February (GTF), and at Flamborough on 20th March (two), and 9th October.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

A male at Breighton Airfield on 7th and 8th May (JB, TED, AF).

A female or immature male at Spurn on 25th May (AJL).

A male at Thundercliffe Grange, Sheffield on 31st May (JPS).

A male at Flamborough on 20th May (JCL). Singles at Filey on 31st May (CB) and Easington on 5th June (MC).

Addition to the 1982 Report: A male at Steeton on 27th June (CDC).

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

One at Flamborough on 25th August probably of the race *L.i. phoenicuroides* (PAL). First record for the county.

Not yet submitted to *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

One in the Middlestow area from 8th to 10th May (DP *et al*).

One at Kilnsea on 4th and 5th May, and probably the same at Spurn on 6th. Singles at Flamborough on 15th and 31st May, and two on 21st May. One at Spurn on 2nd and 3rd June.

At Flamborough singles on 13th August, 4th, 6th, 7th, 10th and 17th September, and two on 12th and 15th September.

One at Spurn from 25th to 27th September, and another from 29th September to 4th October.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

One at Cowden Range remained well into January. Singles during January at Knaresborough Ringing Station from 2nd to 23rd; at Fulford Ings on 3rd; at Gouthwaite Res. on 15th and in the Dearne valley near Barnsley on several dates. One at Sprotbrough Flash first seen on 5th January appeared irregularly up to 5th April, and singles during March were at Worsbrough on 7th; Graves Park on 17th; Cusworth Park on 28th and 29th and Thorpe Marsh on 31st.

One at Great Hatfield near Hornsea on 4th February.

Singles at Gouthwaite Res. on 1st and 2nd April; Thorne Moors on 5th and at North Moor, Wykeham from 17th to 24th April.

One at Thorpe Marsh on 20th and 21st May.

One at Kilnsea on 10th April.

Singles at Flamborough on 29th and 30th September, 13th October and 11th November.

The Kilnsea and Spurn areas had birds from 29th September to 11th October, usually one to two, but five on 2nd October. One south at Spurn on 19th October.

Singles at Redmires Res. on 29th October; Thrybergh Res. on 3rd and 4th November, and Anchor Plain on 27th November.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

One near Holmpton from 15th to 22nd May (JM *et al*).

Accepted by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

A massive autumn invasion, mainly between 24th September and 22nd October, produced many records of birds in off the sea, and moving west and south at inland localities.

V.C. 61: At Spurn where the Observatory had only 11 previous records there were 15 on 11th; 30 on 17th; 39 on 19th and four on 21st October. 12 at Hornsea Mere on 18th October. Flamborough (only one previous record) had six on 11th; four on 13th; 23 on 16th; 25 on 17th October; and Filey (no previous records), six on 19th; 14 on 20th (ten off the sea) and nine on 23rd (six off the sea) and three on 12th November. Eight other localities (at four of which the species does not usually occur) had small numbers during the period. 35 sightings at Holme-upon-Spalding Moor between 13th and 26th October.

V.C. 62: Two at Cloughton on 22nd September. 28 came in off the sea at Whitby on 9th October, and flew north-west. Three in at Scarborough on 14th, and 84 west over Seamer Road Mere between 17th and 21st October, with 22 on 19th and 42 on 20th. 12 at Ravenscar on 22nd October. Occasional singles in off the sea at Osgodby between 17th October and 1st November, and birds in various Scarborough districts in the period.

V.C. 63: 164 west and south-west over Concord Park, Sheffield between 13th September and 27th October, including 58 on 6th October. Eight at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 25th September, and one to two at ten localities in Huddersfield in late September and early October. The 2nd October produced: 31 west over Hallam Moors, Sheffield; 25 at Wilsic; 11 at Wintersett Res.; seven at Blackmoorfoot Res., with smaller numbers moving west at four other places.

V.C. 64: 12 flew south-west over Knaresborough on 24th September, and 11 were at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 25th. 17 at Fairburn Ings on 25th September, and up to ten there in November. At Settle eight south on 25th September and 34 south on 2nd October. 15 at Gouthwaite Res. on 7th October, and at Malham Tarn on 13th. A maximum of 27 at Parlington Park, Garforth during October. Many reports of small parties particularly in suburban areas in Leeds and Harrogate from late September onwards.

Magpie *Pica pica*

100 roosting at Askham Bog on 29th January and 31 at Atwick on 15th February, but all the other high counts were near the towns and cities of the south-west and south.

The highest roost maxima were 109 at Shadwell on 7th January; 113 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 4th February; 137 at Tingley on 26th November, and most other roosts peaked at 50 to 60.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Large numbers again roosted at Frickley Park but only estimated as 'several thousands'. 15 reports mostly in the winter months of flocks and roosts of 150 to 500. 900 at Bewholme on 22nd December, and 700 at Hornsea Mere on 30th. 600 in the Lower Moss Valley on 11th February. 650 on Eccup Moor on 12th and 1,000 over Eccup Res. on 29th October, and 750 east on 6th November.

300 in off the sea at Flamborough on 22nd October.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

A rookery census undertaken in the Dales showed a big increase on 1981 figures. A census in the Huddersfield area (the fifth since 1945) indicated that following a steady increase from 1945 to 1975 the population had virtually stabilised in the last eight years. In 1983, 4,119 nests were counted at 90 rookeries (HCL).

10,000 roosted at Frickley Park in the winter months. Flocks of 1,000 to 3,000 reported from 11 widespread localities.

Indications of passage at Flamborough, with 2,180 on four dates from 12th to 27th November.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

A leucistic bird that had been at Spurn in 1982 was present to 4th April and on 24th May.

200 roosting at Askham Bog on 1st January. 408 in two groups at Harthill on 3rd February. 100 at Anchor Plain on 20th February, and 113 on 14th August. 100 at Cockersdale on 20th November.

At Spurn 32 on 24th April, and unusual numbers in October, with 25 to 88 on eight days. 80 at Easington on 25th October.

At Flamborough 65 on 20th February, and 46 flying out to sea on 2nd April, and maximum for that month of 85 on 16th. An influx there in November, with 85 on 11th; 200 on 13th and 300 on 19th.

Those showing characteristics of Hooded Crow, *C.c. cornix* continue to be scarce, and apart from two at Filey on 20th October; at Spurn on 13th and Drewton on 28th November all were of singles. The majority of the rest, which were at ten localities in V.C. 61 and V.C. 62, were in the last two months, and mostly only on one date apart from at Spurn, with birds on ten days including five in January and February, and at Flamborough with birds on eight days including 3rd and 21st May.

Raven *Corvus corax*

Singles at Addingham on 19th January (LGD); Ilkley Moor on 16th April (LGD); Pugney's G.P. on 5th May (RPC) and Malham Tarn on 2nd December (EJ).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

More roosts than usual were reported.

3,000 at Lundwood S.F. on 9th January, and at Catcliffe on 6th May. 5,000 at Naburn S.W. during the summer. 10,000 at Mickletown Ings in the late summer and early autumn.

10,000 at Tophill Low Res. during March, and 10,000 on Thornwick Bay cliffs during October. 17,830 at Pulfen Bog (Beverley) on 14th August and 3,000 at Potteric Carr on 22nd.

15,000 at Blacktoft Sands on 17th August and 22nd September.

12,000 maximum in Leeds City centre during the year.

25,000 at Bow Bridge, Rotherham on 18th October had increased to 50,000 on 22nd November.

3,000 at Hay-a-Park on 12th November and 4,500 on Strensall Common on 26th December.

5,000 in off the sea at Spurn on 21st October.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Southerly passage continues to occur at Spurn during the autumn.

A flock of 2,000 on fields near Filey during mid September.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Flocks of 70 to 100 during the early months at Filey, Haverfield Ponds, Spurn, Ellerton Tip, Storwood, Roundhay and Hatfield Moors. 260 at Thrybergh Res. on 4th February, and 200 at Wilsic on 20th; 115 at Anchor Plain on 4th March and 120 at Moorhouse on 10th April.

During the autumn and winter 70 to 100 at Anchor Plain, Fairburn Ings and Wilsic. 500 at Wintersett Res. on 28th August; 240 at Pugney's G.P. and 120 at Flamborough on 20th November; 200 in the Moss Valley on 22nd and 150 at Spurn in December.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

The largest flocks for the year were 550 at Redmires Res. on 5th January and 350 at Broomhead Res. on 23rd January. 250 at North Duffield on 13th February and 100 to 200 at 20 places, mostly in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64, in the early months.

250 each at Gouthwaite Res. on 7th October; in the Upper Moss Valley on 22nd November, and on Eccup Whin on 5th December. Flocks of 100 to 180 at six other places from September to the year end.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

A good number of substantial flocks in west of V.C.s 63 and 64, but in the east very scarce away from the York area, with no more than five anywhere during the early months.

400 roosting with Chaffinch, *F. coelebs*, in the Redmires Res. area on 5th January. 200 at Threshfield on 23rd January. Over 450 in the Gleadless Valley, Sheffield on 12th February; 71 at Anchor Plain on 6th; 100 at Ripon on 19th and 150 at Skipton on 20th February. 60 at Castle Howard on 9th, and 120 near Broomhead Res. on 19th March. Otley Chevin had 80 to 120 during March and into early April. 150 at Shadwell, Leeds on 8th April; 100 at Fiddler Wood, Halifax on 16th; over 300 near Parkside Pond, Leeds on 22nd, and 200 in the Upper Moss Valley on 24th April.

Records in early May of six at Linton on 1st; singles at Pond Head (York), Bishops Monkton and Filey on 2nd, and two at Flamborough; four at Gledhow, Leeds and one at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 3rd; singles at Bretton Park on 4th; Spurn on 5th and Pugney's G.P. on 6th.

A male sang regularly near Ingbirchworth Res. from 12th July to 1st August.

On 29th September, one at Kilnsea; two at Spurn, and eight in off the sea at Scarborough. On 30th, 12 at Flamborough and nine at Spurn, with the first inland at Fairburn and Redmires Res. on 2nd October. Larger numbers arrived from 21st October onwards. At Concord Park, Sheffield 37 on 21st and 67 on 22nd October flying west. 47 at Spurn and 50 at Whiston on 21st; 50 at Broomhead on 22nd and 30 near Tophill Low Res., and 150 on Hatfield Moors on 23rd October, with smaller numbers widespread during these dates.

Up to 70 at Ravenscar during November; 150 in the Upper Moss Valley on 22nd, and 250 at Burniston Wyke on 29th November, whilst over 300 in Malham Tarn Woods during that month.

Many other flocks of 20 to 40, with during December 70 at Newton Hill, Wakefield, and 120 near Langsett (on 29th).

Serin *Serinus serinus*

A female at Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 7th May (CCR) and at Spurn on 8th, when a male was at Flamborough (PAL).

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Flocks of 150 at Stanley S.F. on 29th January; 100 each at Studley Royal up to early March; at Sheriff Hutton on 6th February, and at Wilsic, Doncaster on 3rd May.

150 at Wath on 19th August, and 200 at Sandbeck Park on 24th.

Good numbers at Pugney's G.P. in the autumn, with peaks of 240 on 15th September, and 120 on 16th November. 100 to 120 at Knotford Nook on 28th September; East Cottingwith on 15th November; High Batts on 20th November and Wilsic on 17th December.

300 at Filey on 26th October and in the Upper Moss Valley from 16th to 22nd November, and 175 at Pulfin Bog on 26th December. Over 100 regularly at Spurn from mid November to 8th December, with a maximum of 250. Southerly passage peak there of 472 on 19th October, and 390 on 1st November.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

A flock of 55 at Roecliffe, Harrogate area on 15th January was the largest in the early months. 70 at Sugarswell Hill, Leeds during May. 68 at Flamborough on 30th April.

100 at Carlton Marsh from 28th August to 2nd September; 100 at Wath Ings and 75 at Blacktoft Sands on 4th September; 100 at Birkin on 5th September, and at Butterwick about that date. Flocks of 80 each at Flamborough on 13th, Clifton Airfield on 17th, and

Newland, Wakefield on 19th, and 100 at Hornsea Mere on 17th September. 330 at Sunk Island on 2nd October.

Southerly passage maxima at Spurn of 400 on 7th May and 4th October, and 332 on 19th October.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

More numerous in the winter months than in 1982.

Dalby Forest had 200 on 2nd January; 65 on 13th and 140 on 23rd. 80 at Bolton Abbey on 9th and near Bramham on 23rd January. 200 at Broomhead on 23rd, and 130 in Black Dyke Plantation (York area) on 28th January. 150 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 20th February.

100 at Parlington Park on 9th and Lady Edith's Avenue, Scarborough on 10th March. Flocks of about 60 in the Harrogate, Washburn Valley and Leeds areas in March and April, and at Haw Park and Bishop Wood in April.

Bred in at least four distinct areas in V.C. 63; singing males at ten sites in V.C. 64; quite widespread in the dales west of Scarborough, and in particular the Dalby Forest area in May and June.

Southerly movement at Spurn of 70 on 29th September and 3rd October; and 90 on 30th September, and 115 on 1st October spent time feeding on the saltmarsh.

20 at Leyburn Shawl on 24th October.

65 at Silkstone on 13th November; 130 at Knaresborough Ringing Station and 90 at Adel Dam on 26th November.

During December flocks of 80 in Wentworth Park and the Lower Moss Valley; and of 70 at Melbourne and in Myrtle Park, Bradford.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Only small numbers in the early months apart from 100 at Balby Carr on 2nd January, until the return during April, with flocks of 120 at Staveley on 8th; 150 at Potteric Carr on 17th; 140 in the Wath and Broomhill area on 18th; 250 at West Tanfield on 21st, and 550 at Flamborough on 24th.

The peaks of southerly movement at Spurn were 1,268 on 24th April; 1,000 on 7th May; 746 on 23rd September, and 1,559 on 5th October.

Many flocks of over 100 during the autumn.

300 each at Frickley Park on 24th July; Wintersett Res. on 27th August and Bolton Ings on 28th; the Upper Moss Valley on 19th September, and Pugney's G.P. on 1st October.

350 at Flamborough on 17th September and 8th October.

700 at Great Hatfield near Hornsea on 17th September, and 530 in the Ingbirchworth and Broadstones area on 2nd October.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Very few in the early months apart from small flocks of ten over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 15th January; 14 at Spurn on 22nd, and 30 at Skeffling on 23rd.

Small flocks on the Southern Pennines at several places in late March and April, with larger numbers such as 60 at Digley on 28th March; 130 at Walshaw Dean on 30th April and 100 at Ingbirchworth on 2nd May. 20 at Askham Bryan on 20th April.

Bred in good numbers on the moorlands of the Huddersfield and Halifax areas. Single nests found on Blea Moor and East Srafton Moor. 20 at Sleighholme (V.C. 65) on 29th May.

70 at Scammonden on 16th August; 200 at Ripponden on 4th September; 120 at Capon Hall (Settle) on 10th and at Duck Street on 17th, and 100 at Malham on 15th September; 50 each at Horton-in-Ribblesdale on 1st and Tennant Ghyll (Settle) on 7th October; 30 at Easington on 17th October, and 44 at Barmston on 13th November. At Flamborough from 8th October well into December, with peaks of 48 on 29th October; 50 on 30th November, and 45 on 3rd December.

300 in the Ingbirchworth area on 23rd September.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

The largest flocks were early in the year and mainly confined to the south.

Not much information received on breeding although apparently becoming scarcer in V.C. 63. 22 pairs in the Tophill Low area.

Flocks in January of 140 at Potteric Carr on 2nd; 200 at Agden on 3rd; 70 at Horbury Wyke on 8th; 74 at Fairburn Ings on 19th; 100 at Wyming Brook up to March; 200 on Hatfield Moors on 23rd January (and 26th March), and 120 at Anchor Plain on 23rd. 50 at Haw Park on 14th February. 200 at Winkersley Wood on 10th March and 6th April, and 300 at Bishop Wood on 8th April, down to 100 by 5th May.

110 south over Merebeck, Settle on 25th September and 115 south on 2nd October. 180 at Anchor Plain on 23rd November.

Birds showing the characteristics of Mealy Redpoll, *C.f. flammea* at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 4th, 12th and 27th February (two); at Hall Dike, Huddersfield on 12th and 14th February (four), and at Flamborough on 23rd May (two); 30th September (two) and 11th November.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

V.C. 61: Five at Houghton Woods on 7th March. Two at Hornsea Mere on 30th August. One south at Spurn on 23rd October.

V.C. 62: Well reported in many localities amongst the forest plantations west of Scarborough, including 26 in Dalby Forest on 2nd January; 11 at Wykeham on 20th, and ten at Low Dalby on 8th March. A singing male at Raincliffe Woods on 6th April, and a juvenile at North Moor, Wykeham on 21st April. Seven at Newtondale on 22nd August.

20 at Ampleforth on 13th March. Three at Sandburn Wood on 24th March and one at Hazelbush on 15th April (both sites near York).

V.C. 63: The flock at Howden on the Yorkshire-Derbyshire border remained until late February and numbered 70 on 16th January. Up to 20 at Wyming Brook to 8th February, and 35 near Langsett in early February and on 19th March. 16 at Strines on 26th March.

Small numbers of pairs bred in several plantations in the Sheffield area.

Two at Eldwick Crag on 15th May, and at Midhope on 12th June. Four in the Little Don Valley on 4th September, and three west over Redmires Res. on 30th October.

V.C. 64: Most records from the Washburn Valley, with up to 16 in January and February; 20 on 3rd March, and singles on 5th May, 14th July and 27th October at Lindley Wood; a singing male at Norwood Bottom on 12th February, and two on 12th March and 19th May at Timble. Up to 20 in the Winksley area in January and February, and two on 17th April. Two on 1st January and one on 21st February at Eccup Res. Nine at Otley Chevin on 20th February. Five on Blubberhouses Moor on 1st April. At Gouthwaite Res. up to four on 5th February; 5th to 20th March, and 7th to 15th May.

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus*

V.C. 63: Birds again at Howden Res. on the Yorkshire-Derbyshire border, with up to 25 to 10th January, then fewer seen until the last one on 13th February (DH, IF, JK *et al*). Up to eight regularly at Wyming Brook until 20th February, with the last five on 23rd February (PAA). At Holling Dale 12 up to 10th January, and four up to 13th February (DH *et al*). Near Langsett from 23rd February to 7th May, with a maximum of 11, but two pairs regularly with nest building, courtship feeding and song between 13th March and 9th April, and a party of seven on 7th May included at least three adults and two recently-fledged juveniles (JED, SMD *et al*).

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

V.C. 64: In the Winksley area from 29th January (two) to 27th February and 5th March (six, PJC). Eight on 8th (JEA); a singing male on 17th (JEA); 12 on 18th and ten on 19th (SW, TS) and 12 from 21st to 27th February (JRM, GTF, CS, JEA *et al*) with a pair courtship feeding on one date.

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

A pair at Norwood Edge on 10th May (PJC).

Not accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

One sang at Spurn on 30th May, and later flew south (SML).

Addition to the 1982 Report: One at Spurn on 9th September (PA, SJH).

The 1982 record accepted by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Flocks of 12 to 18 in the early months near Huddersfield, Hornsea Mere, Bramhope and Brimham Rocks, and similar numbers in the last two months at Wilsic, Sprotbrough Flash, Thorne Moors and the Upper Moss Valley. 12 at Wentworth Park on 17th September.

From 12 to 50 at Anchor Plain north of York from May to the end of the year.

Two showing characteristics of the race *P.p. pyrrhula* at Everingham on 5th April.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

York area: Up to 25 at Scrayingham from 14th February to 11th March, when 46 were flushed by a shooting party, and 45 on 12th March. Four at Nun Monkton on 20th March. Pairs at Kirby Wharfe on 4th May, and Crambeck on 12th June. Two at Bishop Wood on 20th May, and singles at 12 other places on various dates.

V.C. 62: Singles at Forge Valley on 7th April; Commandale on 13th May and Sleightholmedale on 3rd July.

V.C. 63: Outside the breeding season one to three at twelve localities up to April, and from July. Up to seven at Roche Abbey (13th February), and eight at Sprotbrough Flash (April) whilst 13 flew over going to roost during March.

Bred at Wilsic, Frickley Park, Brodsworth and in the Sheffield area, and probably at Sprotbrough, and courtship feeding occurred at Bretton Park on 25th May.

V.C. 64: One to four regularly at Fairburn Ings in all months except August and September. In the Studley Royal area maxima of 55 on 29th January and 20 on 28th December. In the Harrogate area at nine other sites including eight at Goldsborough on 19th November.

Singles at Allerton Park on 30th and Harewood Park on 31st May, and at Lotherton Hall on 18th December. Present all year at two other sites, with two pairs breeding at one of these where the maximum was 12 in April.

V.C. 65: One at Bolton-on-Swale on 13th November.

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*

One caught at Spurn on 12th May (BRS *et al*). First record for the county.

Accepted by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

A few along the coast in the early months, with six at Flamborough on 9th January; five on 17th and 18 on 23rd April; two at Filey Brigg from 28th April to 3rd May, and singles at Hornsea Mere on 23rd April and 7th May (SML, IJP).

One to two at Spurn on 13 dates from 30th September to 22nd November. Singles at Flamborough on 12th and 24th September; 14 on 31st October; 25 on 4th November, then one to four on a few later dates. Three at Filey on 29th October, and one on 13th November. Three at Cherry Cob on 27th November. One over Concord Park, Sheffield on 13th November (JPS).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

V.C. 61: At Spurn up to nine in January plus 30 south on 9th; up to 28 in February, and 26 in early March, then one to four from mid March to 3rd April. 65 at Kilnsea on 2nd January (SML). Maximum at Barmston 33 on 23rd January (JMD). From 14 to 40 at Filey in the early months, with the last one on 15th April.

First of autumn at Spurn on 11th and Flamborough on 13th September. Regularly at Spurn in small numbers from 13th September to 31st December, with up to 42 during November, and maxima flying south of 30 on 3rd, and 57 on 4th December. Autumn

maxima of only four at Filey and 11 at Flamborough (20th November), but 40 at Barmston on 19th November, and 18 on 11th December (KR).

Two on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 8th November (TED).

V.C. 62: About 20 on a moor north of Castleton on 31st January (MHR). Four at Bransdale on 4th February (WU). One at Cloughton Wyke on 21st September (AJW) and seven south at Scalby Mills on 14th November (SC).

V.C. 63: Two at Fly Flatts Res. on 13th January and one at Lighthazzles Res. on 29th. One over Thrybergh Res. on 15th February. Singles at Wath Ings on 30th October; Thorpe Marsh on 1st November; Langsett on 19th November and Dewsbury S.F. on 3rd and 4th December. One east over Pugney's G.P. on 16th November, then two from 18th and three from 20th to 28th November.

V.C. 64: One at Haverah Park on 20th January (GTF). Singles over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 22nd October; Fairburn Ings on 5th and 12th November, and five west on 30th November (JG *et al*). One at Ilkley on 23rd November (AJB).

V.C. 65: At Fleet Moss ten on 7th March and four on 14th and 15th April.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Many substantial flocks located during the early months.

During January, 110 at Hagg Bridge on 6th; 100 at Cowlam on 15th and 200 on Hatfield Moors on 23rd. In February, 170 at Parlington Park on 2nd; 155 at Thrybergh Tip on 4th; 150 in the Lower Moss Valley on 11th; 280 at Atwick on 19th and 200 at Wadworth Carr on 20th.

103 at Carlton Marsh on 8th April.

110 at Cherry Cob on 6th November, and up to 200 on Hatfield Moors in late November and early December. 160 in the Moss Valley on 22nd November; 180 at Pebley Pond on 10th December, and 130 at Wilsic, Doncaster on 17th.

150 at Parlington Park in the late autumn.

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

One at Seaton Ross on 4th April (DIMW).

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Singles at Flamborough on 11th May (JMP); 28th May (PAL, IS) and 31st May (DIMW). One at Kilnsea on 25th August (GR & HJW). One at Flamborough on 29th September (PAL).

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

An immature male at Flamborough on 30th September (PAL). Sixth record for the county.

Not yet submitted to *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Singles at Bempton on 17th April (DJR); Easington on 7th May (ASP), and Flamborough on 2nd June (AMA, DGH).

Not yet submitted to *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Blacktoft Sands had 50 to 100 in the early months and 100 in December, and about 130 pairs bred there.

70 at Anchor Plain on 6th February, and 120 roosting at Nafferton 26th March.

Slightly reduced breeding numbers in parts of V.C. 63 and V.C. 64. At Fairburn Ings 39 pairs against 69 in 1981. 35 to 40 pairs at Mickletown Ings, and at least 31 singing males at Hornsea Mere.

48 south at Spurn on 25th September. 60 at Flamborough on 5th November.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Up to 200 at Spurn during the first half of January, with fewer later, being down to 40 by April. Early months maxima of 30 near Snainton on 26th January; 40 at Burniston on 5th February and 45 near Reighton on 18th February; 100 at Flamborough on 8th January; 120 at Barmston on 26th February and 280 at Atwick in early March.

Further west maxima were lower, with 80 at Fairburn Ings on 21st February; 70 at Wath Ings on 12th March, but an unusually high number for May of 160 at Storwood near York on 2nd.

100 at Hornsea Mere on 5th and 6th November, when there were 126 at Sunk Island, and 121 at Worsbrough on 26th December.

104 south at Spurn on 6th November, and 60 there, and at North Duffield and East Cottingwith during December.

60 at Carlton Marsh on 28th October.

A slight decline in the west of V.C. 63, and scarcer than formerly in some parts of V.C. 64.

The Need for Field Descriptions

It is our aim to continue to present these reports with complete accuracy so that those who use them in future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

To maintain this accuracy, contributors are reminded that all records of rare or uncommon and difficult species are considered by the Reports Committee before being accepted for publication, or forwarded to *British Birds* for their decision.

The work of the Reports Committee can be aided considerably if observers will submit descriptions as soon as possible after the bird has been seen. Details should be the description taken in the field, before reference to any text books, and should include the locality, date and time, habitat, weather conditions, optical aids used, distance from the bird, previous experience of the species etc. Forms based upon those accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee can be obtained from any Vice-County Recorder for submitting details of any of the species listed below.

Uncommon and Difficult Species

Great Northern Diver	Pomarine Skua
Red-necked Grebe	Long-tailed Skua
Slavonian Grebe	Mediterranean Gull
Black-necked Grebe	Iceland Gull
Cory's Shearwater	Sabine's Gull
Great Shearwater	Roseate Tern
Storm Petrel	Black Guillemot
Leach's Petrel	Woodlark
Purple Heron	Richard's Pipit
White Stork	Tawny Pipit
Spoonbill	Bluethroat
Bean Goose	Cetti's Warbler
Red-crested Pochard	Savi's Warbler
Ferruginous Duck	Aquatic Warbler
Smew	Marsh Warbler
Honey Buzzard	Icterine Warbler
Red Kite	Melodious Warbler
Goshawk	Barred Warbler
Rough-legged Buzzard	Yellow-browed Warbler
Golden Eagle	Firecrest
Hobby	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Spotted Crake	Golden Oriole
Stone Curlew	Chough
Kentish Plover	Raven
Temminck's Stint	Serin
Pectoral Sandpiper	Scarlet Rosefinch
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Cirl Bunting
Red-necked Phalarope	Ortolan Bunting
Grey Phalarope	

British Birds Rarities

All rarities requiring submission to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee, last listed in *British Birds*, Vol. 67, 1974, pages 347-8.

Races

The Reports Committee may request descriptions to support records of well-defined races of common species, or to support records of migrant birds seen out of season and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances.

Local Reports

The following local society and club reports for 1983 have been received, and those readers requiring more detailed information on the areas concerned should consult these.

V.C. 61: *Filey Brigg Ornithological Group* — Classified List.

Tophill Low Reservoir Advisory Group

Spurn Bird Observatory — Classified List, Migration and Ringing Reports.

V.C. 61, 62 and 64: *York Ornithological Club* — Classified List.

V.C. 63: *Barnsley and District Bird Study Group* — Classified List.

Doncaster and District Ornithological Society — Classified List and Ringing Report.

Halifax Scientific Society — Ornithological Report 1980–83.

Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club — Classified List, Rookery Survey and Ringing Report.

Sheffield Bird Study Group — Classified List, Waterways and Wildfowl Surveys.

Wakefield Naturalists' Society — Classified List and Wintersett Ringing Report.

V.C. 64: *Bradford Naturalists' Society* — Classified List.

Castleford and District Naturalists' Society — Classified List.

Craven Naturalists' and Scientific Association — Classified List.

Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve — Classified List.

Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society — Classified List.

Leeds Birdwatchers' Club — Classified List and Ringing Report.

Mickletown Ings — Classified List.

Settle Bird Report — Classified List.

Upper Wharfedale Field Society — Classified List.

Wharfedale Naturalists' Society — Classified List.

List of contributors whose initials appear in the classified list (with apologies for any omissions). The co-operation of these observers and many others who submitted records to their local societies, is very much appreciated.

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Little Gull photographed by Ian Glaves



